THE

AMERICAN FARMER.

"O FORTUNATOS NIMIUM SUA SI BONA NORINT
"AGRICOLAS." . . . . . *Virg.*

VOL. XIV. BALTIMORE, APRIL, 1859. No. 10.

WORK FOR THE MONTH.

APRIL.

CORN PLANTING.

Corn should not be planted until the earth is warm enough to make it grow quickly. With very early planting there will be, necessarily, a great deal of re-planting, and an uneven crop. In this latitude we should not plant from choice before the 10th of May. There will frequently, however, be circumstances which will compel a variation from any set time. The large corn-planter will think it advisable for convenience of cultivation to plant a portion of his crop at the earliest possible time; and the tobacco-planter, if his plants are coming on early, must get his corn-planting off his hand, that it may not interfere with the preparation of his tobacco land. Light, warm soils, too, may be planted earlier than others.

PREPARATION OF GROUND.

At whatever time the planting is to be made, it is necessary now to press on rapidly with the preparation of the ground. Bear this in mind, that the more work you put upon your preparation, the less you will have to do in mid-summer when everything is pressing. The mere turning the sod, imperfectly perhaps, and then marking and crossing is no preparation for corn-planting. Put the ground in thorough condition by dragging and rolling.—Make the surface a fine, soft bed, fit for the young roots to spread themselves in. It is objected to this that it will bring the weeds and the grass upon us too rapidly, and we promise ourselves to plant first and then put the ground in fine order by the time the corn springs up. This last resolve is very well if there is an absolute necessity for it. When the ploughing has been long delayed, and the time of planting comes, rather than postpone it, the seed may be committed to the ground, and this thorough surface culture follow immediately. But such a case should be the exception, and not the rule.—You will always find when corn-planting is done that there is other work demanding your attention, and your young corn will be struggling for life among rugged sods before you return to it. As to weeds and grass springing too quickly, there is no objection to that. The quick growth of weeds is the best evidence that the ground is fit for a quick growth of corn, and the sooner they come, the sooner you will kill them, of course. There is a very important consideration in connection with this early cultivation of the corn land. It enables us to "lay by" the corn in proper condition at an early period of its growth. If the cultivation has been properly carried on till harvest, no implement should touch it afterwards. Begin early, work quickly, and leave your ground well cleaned at that time, and any working after will do more harm than good. In "laying by" the crop, thus early, you may put, with safety, many more hills to the acre, and get a larger crop. A very large crop of corn cannot be made without a large number of hills, and the prejudice against close planting has arisen from our practice of working corn until it has eared, and tearing the roots into pieces at the very time they are wanted to fill the ear. Close planted corn will suffer most from such treatment, but the fault is in the treatment, and not in the close planting.

DISTANCE OF THE HILLS APART.

Three and a-half feet each way gives room enough, if the advice we give above is followed. The difference between three feet six inches each way, and four feet is more than a thousand hills per acre, you will bear in mind. Manure and work well, and we will be responsible for your losses.

TOBACCO BEDS.

Tobacco beds will require careful "nursing." There is no security for a sufficiency of plants without it, and small chance for a crop without an abundant supply of plants. Frequent top

dressings should be given with finely sifted rich compost, or well rotted manure, or guano—say every ten days; and the grass, as it springs, should be thoroughly exterminated. To keep the young plants clear of grass is essential.

THE FLY.

We have little reliance on the various devices for getting rid of fly. The best thing to be done is to make the plants grow fast enough to get quickly beyond their power. It is imagined, very commonly, that the fly is most destructive in cool, "harsh" weather. We think they help themselves just as freely in the hot sun. The difference is, that during the cool days, the plants are making little growth, and lie at their mercy; but growing rapidly when the sun has power, the loss is less apparent. Push them on by frequent manurings; apply dressings of guano just before or during a shower of rain, and encourage their growth by any means in your power—this is the best security against fly.

TOBACCO IN THE HOUSE.

Continue the preparation of the crop for market. Whenever it is in proper condition, let it be packed into hogsheads. Put none into the hogsheads which is not sweet and in good order. Better postpone the packing, if necessary.

CLOVER AND OTHER SEEDS.

These, if not yet sown, should be put in without delay; and on wheat land the harrow and roller applied.

OATS AND BARLEY.

These should be sown without delay. While there is some disposition here to sow barley instead of oats, we observe that in western New York, they talk of abandoning it as a very uncertain crop.

FENCING AND GATES.

Make no delay in having these all put in such substantial order, as, without your further attention, will secure your crops from depredation.

PLOUGHING.

Have all your sod land ploughed during this month. The tobacco ground, first, should be well turned, and left till after corn-planting. When the corn land is ploughed, it should be put in immediate preparation for planting.

PLASTER.

Sow plaster after the leaves of clover are somewhat developed on soft dewy mornings, while there is moisture on the plants.

APPLICATION OF MANURES.

Such manures as you mean to apply to spring crops, may be put on the ground as you have opportunity. On corn ground apply it *after* you have ploughed. Spread it from the cart, and abandon, by all means, those miserable little heaps which serve no other purpose, but to waste the manure, and to spot the field with unsightly patches. Work the manure into the surface soil in making your preparations for corn-planting. If it suit your convenience better, it may be hauled and spread after your corn is planted.

For tobacco, if you have long manure, put it early on the ground after the first ploughing. It will then be turned under at the second ploughing, and not be too near the young plants when first set. If it be fine rotted manure, it need not be applied till you are about to prepare for planting, and may be drawn into the hills. Guano, or superphosphate, (we prefer, all things considered, the Manipulated Guano for tobacco,) is best applied, we think, broad-cast when putting the ground in order, and mixed with the soil by the necessary working. It is sometimes preferred to put the guano deeper and it is sowed in a furrow, over which the hills are made. Every experienced planter knows the importance of having the crop grow off quickly after planting, and we like to have the manure in the position which will produce this result.

For potatoes, the most economical method is to put the manure in the drill; and on top of the set after they are planted, is the best position for it.—For other roots, mix with the soil by ploughing.

MANURING CORN IN THE HILL.

Land, otherwise well manured, is, we think, little profited by manuring in the hill. Poor land not manured, should, by all means, have an application to the hill, and will be greatly benefitted.—We have seen some curious experiments, which seem to indicate that in lands capable of supplying the demands of the plants, the roots spread out in all directions in search of it. This is their natural method, and thus supplied, they seem to neglect the provision made for them in the hill. But it is well-known that, failing elsewhere, the plant makes use of special messsengers to avail itself of this provision made near home. Ashes and plaster in equal parts, a spoonful of Peruvian guano, some well-tried superphosphate, or the poudrette, manufactured by Mr. Baynes, either will answer the purpose; some rich compost will do better than either, perhaps. The guano and more concentrated manures have the advantage of convenience in application.

PREPARATION OF SEED CORN.

We do not like steeps or preparation of any sort for soaking corn. The simple use of tar, made soft enough by warming or by the application of hot water, is the best preparation: roll with plaster after each grain is coated by thorough stirring.

☞ The fine Cleveland Bay Stallion, "Napier," purchased in Eng. for Dr. John R. Woods, of Albemarle, Va. and shipped for him on board the Flora McDonald of this port, we regret to say, died when that vessel had been out at sea only two days.—Dr. Woods has in the same vessel a valuable Cotswold Ram, which we hope will arrive safe.

MERINOS vs. COTSWOLDS.

MONTROSE, CULPEPER, CO., VA., March 7th, 1859.

To the Editors of the American Farmer.

I regret exceedingly that your very innocent republication of a few discursive views upon the advantages of Merino Sheep culture, that I wrote not long since for my daily newspaper, [the Washington City Evening Star,] should have discomposed Mr. Josiah H. Ware, of near Berryville, Clarke county, Va., so astonishingly, as that act of yours evidently did. The head and front of the offence of my article was its avowed preference for the Merino over any other breed, as the sheep for the Virginia farmer in the Piedmont country, to keep. Unlike Mr. Ware, I am not a sheep breeder for sale; and his surmise that I know nothing of other breeds from practical experience, in rearing them, than the Merino, is correct—nevertheless, I do know enough of the Merino, personally, and of their rivals, from reading and the opinions expressed by intelligent farmers, who have kept them not to be shaken in my faith in the better economy of rearing the former in my latitude, by the platitudes of his comparison of the yield of wool and merchantable value of his choice specimens of the Cotswolds, with the $2 sheep (scrubby refuse of the Merino flock of my neighbour, Mr. S. Slaughter Bradford,) noticed in my article referred to and made the basis of his elaborate reply in the February number of the American Farmer.

My article republished in the Farmer contained three errors, as I find on more careful reading. The fine wool as compared with coarse wool sheep of any breed of equal blood and under equally good care and management, do not shear lighter fleeces, as I stated, per head, but, on the contrary, while they are much smaller and consume proportionably less food (for no fact is better established among intelligent graziers than that animals require food in proportion to their live weight,) they actually average heavier fleeces than the coarse wool sheep, and the wool commands from 50 to 75 per cent. according to quality, more in the market. The small scrub flock of my neighbour does not yield a larger average fleece nor lose less, proportionably, than that of Mr. Bradford. That mistake of mine did great injustice to the flock of Mr. B. abroad. What my neighbour remarked to me, I find on enquiry, was that his sheep had given him a larger average fleece since he got them than they (the same sheep) had given Mr. Bradford, while in his large flock.

The culled sheep of which I wrote were sold in your very neighbourhood at $2.50 per head. Mr. Ware has assumed their value as a standard of comparison for the general stock. Now these sheep were old and indifferent ewes and stunted lambs which a good flock master would sooner give away to make room for his best sheep than to keep them.

In all large flocks, in consequence of the increase, a considerable portion has to be disposed of each year. The wethers, and such of the old ewes as are in order, go very readily to the butcher at from $3.50 to $5, and lately a sale was made to a Richmond butcher of 100 wethers at $7, any old breeding ewes and small late lambs which the flock master does not wish to keep or be at the pains of fattening (for they can all be fatted) he will sell at smaller prices—but the best specimens of Merino have commanded, and do now, as high or higher prices than the Cotswolds, according to weight, if sold to the butcher, and dollar for dollar when sold for breeding.

Mr. Bradford, even in this latitude, where they are less numerous and not so highly appreciated as in the old wool growing sections, not unfrequently sells his best bucks at $100, to go to different States, and I have known sales in this neighbourhood at $50. A few years since he gave $250 for a buck. In the old wool growing States they sell for from $100 to $500, and the old Boberling Buck some years ago sold for $2000. Mr. Campbell of Vermont, sold five Silesian Ewes at the U. S. Agricultural Fair, at Philadelphia, for $750, and frequently sells a single ewe for $200. I suppose that Mr. Bradford has not less than 300 sheep in his flock that could not be bought for less than an average of $25, nor am I prepared to say that he would sell them for that—I know he has a number of ewes for which he would not take $50. Mr. Ware says his flock (probably of not over 50 of "full and part bred Cotswold,") "many of them winners of the high prizes of the Royal Agricultural Society of England," yield him $2.10, average in wool. This is a wonderful exposition of their superiority for wool growing sheep averaging from 300 to 500 gross, and consuming feed accordingly. They give him $2.10, while my neighbour's "cullings," weighing an average of not over 80 lbs. gross, and about 4 of them fed where one Cotswold could be kept, gave, without extra feed or care, $2.02 in wool, and from 90 to 100 per cent. in lambs.

While he boasts of his Cotswolds, which weigh, he says, from 175 to 320 lbs., nett, and give from 10 to 12 lbs. washed, and one gave 18¾, another 17 unwashed, (if I understand him rightly,) Mr. Bradford has a buck whose gross weight is 109 lbs., that yielded 18¾ lbs., and 20 of his bucks and ewes of from 80 to 100 lbs., gross weight, yielded from 10 to 15 lbs. of unwashed wool.

Mr. George Campbell, of Vermont, has a half Silesian and half Spanish Buck, 2 years old, that sheared 22 lbs. of unwashed wool 1 year's growth; and Edwin Hammond's flock of several hundred Merinos, last year, yielded him, as I am credibly informed, an average of 9 lbs. unwashed wool—their average gross weight being less than 100 lbs., and about 4 of them kept at about the cost of one of Mr. Ware's Cotswolds.

As to mutton, Mr. Ware may occasionally sell one at an extravagant price, in consequence of the reputation of his flock, but take the general run of flocks, and the fine wool mutton sells for as much per pound as the coarse wools, and a pound of fine wool meat can be raised as cheaply as a pound of coarse wooled, and while raising it, it will afford from 5 to 10 per cent. of wool, while the coarse sheep do not give an average of 3 per cent. of their weight in wool. Now as to the flavour of the two, there is no comparison. If he doubts the fact, I will refer him to Mr. Cunningham, of this county, who, though breeding Cotswolds, is said to use the Merino on his own table, in preference. The Merino affords less waste in cutting up—there is less offal in proportion to weight; the fat marbles through the whole carcass, and the fibre is more tender and juicy and of a richer flavour. This fact is said to be revolutionizing the English breeds of sheep. The connoisseurs in England who can afford to pay the dif-

ference, always paid high for small Welch and Scotch mutton, but the great mass of the English consumers have preferred the large fat breeds—the taste is fast changing. In Manchester and other cities, these large fat joints are less saleable, and the efforts of the breeder are now more turned towards small breeds with comparatively less fat or grossness, and according to late writers, the large Leicesters and Cotswolds are going quite out of fashion. This fact obtains equally in regard to beef, for while Durhams and Herefords are preferred for ships and packing, Devons are high in repute for private families. The joints are smaller, but the meat has a peculiar richness, probably found in none of the larger breeds and the proportionate waste is said to be less.

The wether lambs are not sold to the butcher, for the simple reason that their fleeces pay so large a profit for their keep, until 2 and 3 years old, when they are fully grown, fatten easily and sell for $4 to $6, according to market and season of the year. The average life of a Merino is 8 years, that of coarse wools about 4. Mr. Bradford has kept a breeding ewe until she was 14 years old; and I have heard of their breeding until 20 years old.

If there are not 250 thorough bred Cotswolds in the United States, as Mr. Ware intimates, what have become of the numerous importations for the last 10 years, and their increase? The ewes are all kept for breeders, and have often 2, 3 and 4 lambs.

The statement that a late loss from a Merino flock in Culpepper, exceeded all the Cotswolds in existence in this country, is a mistake—some years ago when Mr. Bradford engaged first in the enterprise of wool growing, he had one Fall over 1500 sheep, with feed for about half that number—which given to them all together, the larger and stronger got all, while the thinner and weaker were shoved off without any, consequently some 30 or 40 died of starvation,—a proportionate loss occurred with other flocks from same cause, for several years—I will hazard the assertion, that the proportionate loss of Mr. Bradford's flock has been less than Col. Ware's or of any coarse wool flock in the United States and the profits greater. Mr. Ware has an intelligent English Shepherd, who superintends his flock.

The Cotswolds die when in fine condition and apparently in health—a Merino rarely dies except from disease or age or starvation—many persons supposing they can subsist almost without food.

In the improvement of land there is no comparison. Merino sheep, like other animals, other things equal, remunerate their owners in proportion to the care bestowed upon them—wool will not grow while the animal has only food enough to keep it alive—the demands of nature must first be supplied, and it is only by increasing the food beyond this point that profit can be realized from wool or flesh. The Merino will thrive on miserable tracts where Cotswolds will starve. Bushes, briers, and even weeds which often infest the land are extirpated by Merino sheep, and the scattering of their excrements over its surface in ("indissoluble balls,") the best and most concentrated form in which it can be applied, maintains the land in constant fertility and improvement.

In reply to Mr. Ware's comments upon Mr. Bradford's care of his sheep, in housing them in bad weather, &c., I will say that his sheep are no better, nor indeed so well housed as his other stock—the least expensive and least comfortable shelter on his plantation being his sheep cote, which is rudely constructed of poles and straw, while his horses, cattle and swine have each their apartments in well constructed and durable buildings; nor does he conceive it more important to shelter sheep than other stock. It is most economical to provide all with good, dry and warm shelters—the saving of food and the greater thrift of the stock will pay from 10 to 20 per cent. interest on the cost of the buildings. He is not aware that cold, dry weather is injurious to sheep, but warm dry shelter serves as an equivalent for food to a certain extent. Food is required to keep up the animal heat, and the warmer they are kept the less food is required to preserve the natural warmth of the body, and where sheep are without shelter, their wool is wanting in that softness and elasticity and those fine felting properties which wool sheltered from storms and extreme changes of weather, always possesses in a superior degree.

Whether "the breeders of Cotswolds consider the Merino as a mutton sheep at all" or not—the mutton is certainly excellent, and not surpassed by that of any other sheep. Lord Summerville, claims it as a rule, "that the quality of the flesh, in each class of sheep, follows that of the wool, and that the flesh of the short and fine wooled sheep is closer in the grain and more highly flavored than the long wooled." Sir Joseph Banks, says "the London butchers, after having some of the Merinos, eagerly sought for more, from its popularity with their best customers," and it is certain, that the flavor of our Va. Merino does not suffer in comparison with the choicest breeds.

The Merino is less attractive and less handsome, and altogether is more deficient in form than the best coarse wool sheep. This apparent difference is materially lessened, however, when both are denuded of their fleeces, as the longer pile of the latter covers defects, which would manifest themselves under the closer covering of the Merino; yet, with this seeming deficiency, Young "found," in feeding the Merino and Bakewell, that the latter ate the most and gained the least, in the ratio of two to three.

My two nearest neighbours and myself, have between us, perhaps, 350 pure bred Merino sheep, one flock costing $2.50 per head, another $3.00, and the 3d (my own) $6.00 per head. In the course of six months I believe that not a single death from disease, old age or any other casualty has taken place in either of these three flocks except on one occasion, when the $2.50 flock strayed in the woods and ate of ivy bushes, which resulted in the death of six sheep and in the temporary sickness of many more. From present appearances all three of these flocks will repay their owners well for interest on first cost, and keep in wool this season—and again, in the increase of the flocks above and beyond sufficient numbers to keep them at their original numbers, and to say nothing of the value of their manure, which I esteem very highly indeed as a fertilizer.

My business engagements prevented me from replying to Mr. Ware earlier, and now compel me to write you after this desultory fashion.

Your obedient servant,

W. D. WALLACH,

Editor Washington Star.

SWEET POTATO CULTURE.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

GENTLEMEN:—In continuing, at your request, the subject of Sweet Potato Culture, as practised in this section, it becomes my place next to give the usual manner of preparing the ground for the reception of the sprouts.

This crop, with us, is usually put in land cultivated the previous year in corn, or some other cultivated crop. The ground is ploughed to a moderate depth, (say five or six inches,) and sometimes cross ploughed, then well harrowed, then laid off in rows three feet apart, in which we drill manure, at the rate of forty or fifty cart loads per acre. The manure used is such as we raise upon the farm during the previous summer and winter, which is hauled out at intervals during the winter and early spring, and composted with woods-mould, sea-weed, old potato bed, or anything else that is available. This is cut down with grubbing hoes, and well beaten to pieces before being thrown into the cart for drilling. So important do we think this piece of work, that it is often chopped over a second time before being used.

Sometimes we broadcast it, but this is not often the case, though we think it is just as good, perhaps better, but it takes rather more in that way, which is the cause of the drilling system being adopted. I have used guano in the drill, at the rates of from one to two hundred pounds per acre, and made good crops with it. I have also used guano in the drill, after having previously manured the ground, and think it pays well. One advantage in the use of guano is (if no other) that it causes the sprouts to grow off sooner, and, consequently, they can be worked to more advantage.

The land is left as when drilled, until we have sprouts sufficiently large, which we generally have by the first of May, and if we have a season about that time, we usually commence setting out. To prepare the ground for these, we usually run three furrows; the first in the same furrow in which the manure is deposited, running a little deeper than the manure, which throws the manure out; the second throws the first one back, and the third laps over the second, which form a ridge or list. This is levelled off with the back of a hoe a little, which facilitates setting out the sprouts. They are set from 14 to 16 inches apart. My experience teaches me, that where the ground is very wet, or even moderately so, that the dirt should not be pressed much around the sprout when set out; for when it dries, it causes it to bake around the sprout, and consequently it must suffer, if it does not entirely perish. At such times I usually hurry my hands, and have two reasons for doing so; the first, that I may get as many sprouts out as I possibly can during the season; and secondly, (and by no means the least) that my hands may not have time to more than pull up the dirt to the sprouts. I have often noticed that sprouts set out by the fastest hands, always live the best, and for no other reason than that they put them in loosely. I usually set with each hand, in this way, about three-quarters of an acre per day, and there are said to be some hands in the neighbourhood, who can set an acre per day; of course, in these cases the sprouts are drawn and taken to the setters. When the ground becomes dryer, we take more care in putting them in; and if very dry, and we have plenty of sprouts large enough, we "mud" them, and continue putting them out. I have found cow dung and clay, mixed in equal proportions, to be the best thing to mud the roots with. Care should, however, be taken to get as little on the tops of the sprouts as possible, as they are not apt to live as well as they would otherwise.

Hoping I have explained the process of manuring and setting out the sprouts, I shall proceed to give the manner of working the crop; and as this differs with almost every farmer, I shall endeavour to give the two methods adopted by the largest and most successful cultivators—by either of which, I feel sure, a fair crop can be made, if the land and other things are suited to them. The first is, as soon as the grass begins to appear, run a narrow cultivator down the middle and then with a single horse plough throw two furrows to the sprouts, following with the hoes and hill up well around the sprouts; this is termed by those who practise it the first working. When the grass begins again to appear, the second working is given them, by again running the cultivator down the middle, once, and weeding down the ridges with the hoes. They are permitted to remain in this way until the grass again appears, when the third and last working is given them, by turning the vines, (which will have crossed the rows,) and throwing the dirt to them again with the plough, this time, running four times in a row. In the last working, when the vines have to be turned, every other row is ploughed, and then followed with the hoes before the vines are turned back into them, which, when done, are worked like the others, which finishes them, and will be sufficient, if the work is done well, and when it ought to be done.—Another method adopted is, for the first working to cultivate the middles, and weed them as in the second working described above, letting them remain in this way until they begin to get a little grassy, when the vines are turned into every other row and dirt ploughed to them, running four times in the row, which cleans up the middle. Then the hoe hands follow, cutting out any grass that escaped the plough, and hill up at the time. Then the vines are reversed, and the other rows ploughed, and hilled with the hoes, as in the first rows. Some weeks after this is done, the hands again go over them, and pick out, with their hands, any bunches of grass that are around the sprouts, which is the finishing of them.

Of the two methods given, I am rather inclined to think that the first is mostly practised, though both are, to a considerable extent.

Another plan of working the crop is, as soon as a good rain comes, (which will settle the dirt well around the sprouts,) and the ground becomes dry enough, a cultivator or drag is run twice in a row, running as near the sprouts as can be done without disturbing them. This leaves the ridges narrow, most of the dirt which formed the ridges being, by this process, left between the ridges. They are left in this condition until the grass begins to appear, when the dirt is thrown to them with a very small plough, (a No. 6 being the one I use,) running very near the sprouts and only going twice in a row, which, if done by a good ploughman and a slow horse, laps the dirt nicely around the sprouts, leaving very little to be

done by the hoe hand; however, they go over them after a few days, and work around the stumps, if any, and hill up such places as were not well done by the plough. If the plough throws the earth with too much force by running near the sprouts, it may be remedied by fastening a piece of rope around the mould board of the plough, which will then only shove the dirt up gently—the object being, at this working, to hill them, and, at the same time, leaving only a small ridge. When the grass begins to appear again, the vines are turned into every other row, the hands who turn the vines picking out any grass they may see around the sprout at the same time, when the cultivators are again run twice in a row, after which the plough follows, throwing the dirt again towards the sprouts, though throwing very little around them. At this ploughing a larger plough is used, (with us a 12½ or seed,) which will throw the dirt up to the sprouts without the process of weeding them with the hoe, as in the two methods before alluded to. After this is done the hoe hands are again used for chopping the grass from around the stumps, uncovering any vines that may have been covered up by the plough, and putting up any dirt that may be needed, after which the vines are turned into the rows that have been worked, when the others are worked in the same manner.

After some weeks the hands can go over them again and pick out any grass that has attained sufficient size to injure the potatoes, as there is not a great deal to be done on the farm by that time.

I know of no one except myself who has worked a crop by the last plan described, though I think it has very many advantages over any other plan that I know of, some of which I will endeavor to point out. In the first instance the early cultivating checks the grass, and leaving as it does the earth loose, and the ridge narrow, gives the sprouts more warmth from the sun, thereby enabling them to attain a sufficient size by the time the grass appeared, when the dirt can be ploughed to them nicely, which saves much tedious hoe work.

In the second instance by the use of the small plough recommended, they can be hilled better, the grass can be checked as effectually (if the ploughing is done before the grass gets too large) and the ridge is again left narrow which gives the same advantage in this as in the first instance.

In the third instance the ridge being narrow, the dirt can again (with a larger plough) be thrown to them as soon as these vines are trimmed without being previously weeded with the hoes. By this process more than one-half of the usual hoe work can be dispensed with, and the work can be done much more rapidly when it is weeded. The scarcity of hoe hands was the cause of my adopting it in the first instance, the result of which was the making the largest yield I ever made.

Hoping that this communication may be worth to some of your subscribers the space it will occupy, in your highly appreciated Journal,

I remain yours, respectfully,

W. D. West.

Elizabeth City County, Va.

There is no man on earth so pure but can find something in himself to amend. Hence the necessity—absolute necessity, of every man minding his own business.

What is better than presence of mind in a railroad accident? Absence of body.

ALDERNEYS.

Catonsville, March 10th, 1859.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

My Dear Sirs:—In these days, while the Durham and Ayrshire Cattle are so deservedly filling the agricultural mind, the so called Alderneys receive very little of the attention to which their great butter qualities justly entitle them. Now and then the taper head, the fine neck and the deer like form of a specimen of this breed strikes the eye of some observant passer by, and the golden hue of the butter discrediting almost the idea of the absence of all artificial colouring excites the wonder of some lover of the table, but the farmer generally is either ignorant of, or inattentive to the great merits of these cattle as butter producers. The quantity of their milk is not so great as that from other cows, but its richness is unsurpassed, and when the cow has attained full maturity and advanced some five or six months towards another calving, the richness of the milk is then almost incredible. Horsfall, who with all the lights of science aided by experience, used the cow merely as a machine to be stimulated to its utmost productiveness, and then to have her carcase handed over to the butcher, never succeeded in obtaining a milk at all comparable in richness to that produced in some of our Alderney dairies here. With him the calf itself was sacrificed to his only object, while with us such a course of stimulation would have produced unhealthiness in our breeding stock and weakness in their offspring.

Thinking that the performances of a few Alderneys, which for this season of the year are considerably above the average of other cows might not be unacceptable to you, I subjoin the below. All the cows mentioned are imported from the Isle of Jersey.

Countess was first tried because considered the best milker in the stable.

Victoria come in fresh about the same time and was tried on that account.

Milly was tested because she gave much less and had been long at the pail. The richness of her milk is extraordinary

The other two were tested as they came in fresh, and were chosen on this account only, as there are several others in the stable fully equal to them.

Name.	*Days from Calving.*	*Date of trial.*	*Weight of Milk.*	*Weight of Cream.*
Countess,	116	Jan. 24, 1859,	lbs. oz.	
Victoria,	35	Feb. 7, "	195 11	39 lbs. 6 oz.
Milly,	176	" 14, "	126 1	27 " 1 "
Liberty,	32	" 24, "	157 2	
Nelly,	40	March 3, "	162 14	24 " 10 "

Name.	*W't. of Butter.*	*Quarts of Milk to lbs. of Butter.*
Countess,	10 lbs. 7 oz.	8.5 qts.
Victoria,	10 " 15 "	8.4 "
Milly,	9 " 12 "	6.08 "
Liberty,	9 " 2 "	8.1 "
Nelly,	8 " 4 "	9.3 "

The above five cows were tried in succession during a period of seven days each. Their aggregate produce as will be seen amounts to 48 pounds 8 ounces butter.

I have just weighed the produce of the above five cows together for the week ending Monday March 7th. Notwithstanding the inclemency of

the weather and the continuance of cold rains for three days out of the seven, the effects of which were very visible in the yield of milk, which was less than on the other four days, the marketable butter produced was still only a fraction under 45 lbs.

There are now in stall 16 cows, some of them bred in this country, among whom there are certainly six not inferior to those above mentioned.

I remain, very respectfully,

JOHN GLENN.

Hilton, *March 18th*, 1859.

We are obliged to Mr. Glenn for the above statement, which will be a matter of interest to all who care for that rare article good butter.—The lovers of fine stock would be gratified, we are sure, by a visit to the Dairy of Mr. Glenn, about 7 miles from the city. His beautiful herd of Alderneys are not surpassed in breeding and quality. We should be glad to receive statements like this from other breeders of the Alderney. We know that Mr. Wilson is aiming to breed his herd up to 14 lbs. a week when fresh, but whether he can make a better average, at present, than this of Mr. Glenn, we do not know.—Eds.

MR. STRANDBERG'S DEVON PEDIGREES.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

Gentlemen:—In the February number of the American Farmer, I politely invited Mr. Strandberg to furnish, for publication, a copy of the statement of the pedigrees of the cattle that he exhibited at Richmond, which statement, according to the rules of the United States Agricultural Society, it was to be presumed that he had handed in, at the time of making his entries.

That this step of mine has been particularly acceptable to Mr. Strandberg, may be inferred from that part of his reply in which he thanks me for thus affording him an opportunity of placing his cattle before the public, and that the time chosen for taking it, is more appropriate than the hurried week of our cattle shows, is evident, upon reflection that such a question raised during an exhibition, might be considered an infringement upon the rule of our societies, which forbids interference by any person with the action of the appointed judges.

Mr. Strandberg, however, misunderstands my views with regard to the object, use and authority of the Herd Book. I availed myself of the wording of a rule of the United States Society, because that calls for the exhibition of a written pedigree with stock offered as thorough-bred, and adopts a known and generally admitted standard authority, which requisites were not specifically demanded by any recently published rule of the Maryland State Society; but I hold as little to the assertion, that nothing outside the Herd Book is pure, as to the contrary extreme, that everything registered in it is necessarily so. It cannot ennoble animals of impure blood—it is a mere public record, upon which breeders are usually desirous to enter the names and pedigrees of their stock; but it is recognized, and is valuable as authority, because every pedigree published in its pages, is held up to public scrutiny, and must stand the test of public investigation. Such a book is the Stud Book, in England, constantly consulted in that country, and this by the breeders and lovers of the thorough-bred horse—such the more recently established Short Horn Herd Book, whose pages are filled with many thousand names of animals of that celebrated breed.

I do, however, subscribe to the conditions of the following rule, which I have the authority of Messrs. George Patterson, S. T. C. Brown and Oden Bowie for giving, (and I state it in the words of the first named of those gentlemen) as that which they consider a correct test of purity of blood; and, I may add, by which they are at all times pleased to have their own cattle judged. It is substantially the same with that adopted by the New York Agricultural Society, and was recommended for adoption to the Maryland State Society, by a committee appointed in 1854, to draw up a schedule of points of excellence, for the guidance of Judges, in their examination of animals at our annual shows. (See Am. Far. for Nov. 1854)

"No animal can be considered a thorough-bred Devon, unless it traces directly to imported stock, and from a herd known in England to be thorough-bred."

How does this rule apply to the herd of Mr. Patterson, long and well known in the United States, and received without question as thorough-bred.—It dates its origin from importations made from a known and reliable source in England, as early as the year 1817, long before the appearance of the Herd Book, of which the first volume was published only in 1851; its character has been maintained and improved up to the present time, by frequent subsequent importations—and if the sanction of the Herd Book be desirable, it has that in the form of a special notice of it by the editor of that publication, in his preface to the second volume.

Messrs. Bowie, Brown, Mullikin and Dobbin, derive their stock almost exclusively from the Pattersod herd, and where there has been infusion of other blood, are prepared to show the equal purity of each animal, so introduced. Thus, it appears, that the above rule fairly *includes* instead of *excluding*, the herds of "nearly all of the most prominent breeders in our State." That it may also include that of Mr. Strandberg—it is simply requisite to show that Eliza, the dam of Matilda, the nameless sire of Matilda's first calf, the parents of Jane and the sire of the calves of that cow, and the bulls with the milking marks, one of which Mr. Strandberg has procured every two or three years, were all descended from ancestors imported from some known English herd. With the greatest respect for gentlemen named by Mr. Stranberg, I must dissent from the conclusion, as not to my mind logically unavoidable, or at best not self-evident, that because their personal character cannot be impugned, or the reputation of one of them as a dairyman may be undisputed, it follows that cattle bred or sold by them must be pure Devons, rather than pure Short Horns or pure Herefords, or only Grades or Natives.

A few words on the subject of the milking qualities of the Devons. Mr. Patterson has always claimed for this race of cattle the merit of being good milkers, as well as of being superior for purposes of draught and of fattening for the table.—He has, therefore, carefully bred from his best milch cows, and endeavored to secure his importations from good milking herds in England. Recently, however, in England, many breeders have cultivated the beef-making tendency of the animal, although at the expense of its milk-producing qualities, thinking to obtain a more perfect form, and

estimating the value of the beef gained to be greater than that of the milk lost. These differences of opinion depend either upon the fancy of the breeder, or upon the object that he may have in view, or the kind of return that he wishes to get from his cattle; but the holders of them unite upon the ground, that it requires more than a Guenon escutcheon, to make a good pedigree for a *milking Devon*.

J. Howard McHenry.

TO GET RID OF VERMIN IN POULTRY HOUSES.

Locust Grove, King and Queen Co., Va.
March 15th, 1859.

Messrs. Editors:—Knowing your able and efficient monthly to be the general medium of conveying information which concerns the farm and its various departments, I have concluded to contribute something that pertains to the domestic department. I have frequently heard many complaints among my fair friends about the vermin that infest their poultry houses; and if there is still any one annoyed with such a pest I can give him or her a remedy which my experience has successfully tested. When I commenced housekeeping I found my poultry house—an old one—so infested with vermin that the attendant had to keep a change of clothing at hand, so completely covered with the lice when coming out of the house as absolutely to demand it. After exhausting all the old women's remedies, such as fumigating with tobacco, a decoction of grease and tobacco applied to the wings, etc, I finally found no relief, and determined to make up the deficiency of poultry and eggs in manure. I littered the house thoroughly with (in common parlance) pine-tags, and removed them every week to the compost pen—in a short time I discovered that the vermin had entirely "vacated the premises," and I have never since been informed of their pressence. Whether the cure is owing to any peculiar virtue in the pine-tag or the cleanliness caused by its weekly application, I am unable to decide, but do affirm that the two combined are a certain specific. The genial sun, the budding leaf and the feathery green betoken the presence of Spring—that season of hope and labour to the farmer, yet, his labours have been very much interrupted by the incessant rains which have fallen since November.

The wheat is looking well generally, except on land where drainage is bad, which has been singed. Corn from this region, which is usually carried to Baltimore, has mostly been purchased for Richmond and Petersburg, for the supply of South and Piedmont, Va., which suffered severely from the drought which prevailed in this State last summer.

I would like in this article to enter my protest with Mr. Yardley Taylor, who in the February number gave us some useful instruction upon Natural History, against all bird killers, specially the crow; but time and space deny me the privilege. Respectfully your ob't servant,

GEORGE R. FINCH.

Chinese Sugar Cane.—This subject is constantly increasing in interest among the people of the West. Not the farmers alone, but capitalists are looking to its manufacture into syrup and sugar in the future as one of the great advance movements to take place here—one of the steps giving us increased wealth and importance as an agricultural or producing country.—*Prairie Farmer.*

EXPERIMENTS WITH FERTILIZERS.

Accomac, C. H., Va., Mar. 3, 1859.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

Wishing always to give credit where due, I take the liberty of reporting to you my experience in relation to fertilizers.

On the occasion of the exorbitant rise in the price of Peruvian Guano a few years ago, in casting about for a cheaper substitute, I bought a small quantity of Reese's Manipulated, or Phospho-Peruvian Guano, $47 per 2000 pounds, and De Burg's Super-phosphate of Lime, $45 per 2000 pounds, to test in comparison with Peruvian Guano.

In an experiment on potatoes—the fertilizers being applied at same cost per acre—the result was decidedly in favour of Reese's in quantity and quality of large potatoes. From the start, the tops from the Peruvian took the lead, being of a rich, dark green; De Burg came next, and Reese's behind. At digging, however, imagine my surprise to find Reese No. 1 in quantity and quality, Peruvian No. 2, and De Burg "distanced."

In an experiment—or, rather two—on corn, the result was the same—Reese's taking and maintaining the lead to the last.

On wheat the result last year was not of a character to justify an opinion. The crop was so much damaged by blight, that I can not say whether or not it was benefitted by the application of the fertilizer, (Reese's alone.) But this I know—I made a *better crop* than most of my neighbors, who used Peruvian to a much larger amount per acre than I used Reese's Guano. And in market mine brought a *higher price* than any from this section grown with Peruvian, and sold at same time. Whether either result is attributable to the use of Reese's Guano, I cannot say, as I did not compare the two on my own farm. At any rate, it was "*post hoc*," if not, "*propter hoc.*" I rather suspect it was *propter hoc*. So firmly am I of this opinion, that I have used only Reese's on my present crop of wheat, and am told it compares very favourably with any sown with Peruvian. I think its beneficial effects on corn, as compared with Peruvian are more marked than on any other crop on which I have compared them.

Another advantage of this Guano is its form—a fine, dry powder ready for use, and free of those large hard lumps found in Peruvian, which are of no use, except as make-weights—and which render it necessary to subject the Peruvian to repeated siftings and poundings before it is fit for use.

If you see fit to give the experience of an Eastern Shore farmer a place in the "Farmer," for the benefit of his brethern here and elsewhere, it is at your service. Respectfully yours,

Thos. R. Joynes.

I might add, that greater permanency is claimed for Reese's, as an advantage over Peruvian, but of that, as yet, I am unprepared to express an opinion.

Moss on Apple Trees.—In reply to our correspondent in Accomac Co., Va., we would recommend him to remove the moss on his Apple trees by first scraping the bark and then putting on, with a brush, a wash of lime and unleached ashes.

CAPT. STRANDERG'S DEVONS.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

Seeing in the March No. of your paper, a communication from Capt. Strandberg, of Maryland, in response to a call from J. H. McHenry, Esq., in which Capt. Strandberg gives the pedigrees of sundry premium Devons exhibited by him at the late United States Fair at Richmond, Va., I feel it due to the parties, as well as to myself and to the public, to state briefly, as to one of these animals.

The bull "*Richmond*," which took the first premium at the above Fair and several other places, Baltimore amongst the rest—was not bred by Mr. Haxall, of Richmond, as Capt. Strandberg states, and, of course, was not "*out of Mr. Haxall's best cow.*" That bull was bred by me, and his true name is "*Paragon.*" In my registry I find this entry made of him: "*Paragon was calved February 20th, 1856; Sire—Pioneer; Dam—one of Hurlburt's cows. Sold to Mr. R. B. Haxall, Richmond, for* $50." "Pioneer" was bred by Mr. Patterson, sold to Mr. Bidderman, of Delaware, and bought by me from him. (See Pedigree from George Patterson, and letter from Bidderman, entered in herd-book "Godwin," 207, in my possession.) The dam of "Paragon" was bought by me from Mr. Aaron Clement, and was bought (as I understand) from Hurlburt. The history of "Paragon" is this:

He was sold and delivered to Mr. Haxall, in the fall of 1856, when about eight months old, and was thought by Mr. Haxall, at the time, to be a fine animal. But seeing this bull on sale at our State Fair the fall following, I was told by Mr. Haxall, that he thought a bull of his own raising a better animal, and this one was for sale; subsequently, during the Fair, he informed me he had *traded* him with Capt. S. for a Heifer.

When this animal was brought back to Richmond last fall, he was in fine plight—had grown a good deal, and with a new name, and priced at $200. I did not at first know him, but upon enquiry of Capt. Strandberg ascertained he was certainly the one I sold Mr. Haxall.

The bull attracted considerable notice; and, although rather under size,—being at the time a little over two years and eight months old,—he had a fine body—fine symmetry, and carried himself remarkably well, and would, no doubt, have been thought worthy of a premium any where.

But whilst I appreciate the compliment paid my stock by Capt. Strandberg in getting his breeding bull from me, I differ with him in what he says about the "*fine milking marks*" of this bull. I think he had about the *worst* "*mirror*" of any animal I recollect to have ever bred; and if, as he declares, his "*entire object is milking qualities,*" I could sell him a bull from better milking stock, and with a better "*mirror,*" at less than one-half the price he asked for "*Richmond.*"

The truth is, the most intelligent breeders of Devons in this country and in Europe, do not at all agree with Capt. Strandberg in the propriety of breeding with *entire reference to milk*; nor do I believe it is to the interest of any one but a regular dairyman to do so. Nine-tenths of farmers want *work oxen and beef as well as milk*, and he who breeds for milk alone will certainly in the end obtain a stock of cattle so thin in the withers and light and splintery in the forequarters as to be worthless for anything but milk.

I think Capt. Strandberg acted wisely in departing from his rule, even in this instance, for while his cow "Matilda," all her points considered, is hard to beat, the breeding, even from so fine a cow as she is, entirely with reference to propagating her *milking qualities*, would sooner or later result in deterioration P. B. PENDLETON.

Louisa Co., Va., Mar. 9th, 1859.

TO PREVENT THE WORM IN PEACH TREES.

ROWLANDSVILLE, Md., March 7, 1859.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

GENTLEMEN:—I have noticed in one of the late numbers of the *Farmer* a recipe for preventing the worm from destroying the peach tree.—Gas tar, in the writer's opinion is a sovereign remedy—I have no doubt it is very good—I have used the common tar, smeared on a strip of rag and wrapt round the tree from the first roots to about three inches above the ground. This is no doubt an entire preventive, as it prevents the moth from depositing its egg in the bark of the tree, but I thought it had an injurious effect upon the tree, by stopping the pore of the bark. The following method which I have practised with much success I think decidedly preferable.

Clear away the dirt in April, from about the the roots of the tree, then take a small sheaf of straw—the size however depends upon the size of the tree—wheat straw will answer, but rye is better—place it neatly around the tree, and bind the top of the sheaf round the body of the tree with a small cord—adjust your straw then evenly round the base of the trunk, and throw the dirt back upon the lower ends of the sheaf. This prevents the earth from coming in contact with the bark of the tree when the moth deposits its egg, and will always effectually prevent the depredations of the peach tree worm. The straw leaves the bark of the tree in a very clean and swathy condition, while the tar or pitch binds, and destroys partially the bark, leaving it in a very unhealthy state. One application of straw will last one season.

A FARM MILL.

In reply to the inquiry of a Georgia Correspondent, for a Farm Mill, we have the following from a responsible source.

BEAUFORT, S. C., 14th March.

Tell your Georgia correspondent that the simplest, and cheapest, and one of the most efficient, as well as durable grist mills, is made by Wm. S. Henen & Co., of Charleston. It is of Georgia Burr stones, horizontal, very simple and durable, on iron frame with iron pulley. It can grind from two bushels to 10 or 12 per hour, according to the power applied; and can be put in the place of the saw gin without more change than moving out the one and putting the other in its place. They also make a good and substantial horizontal mill for grinding sorgho—adapted to horse or steam power; price $100, all of iron. The price of the corn mill is $70 or $80. I speak advisedly when I recommend this corn mill, which I think one of the cheapest made in the United States of stone, and none can be more simple.

Yours, respectfully, ROB. CHISOLM.

SYRUP FROM THE SORGHUM.

Near Head of Sassafras, Kent Co., Md., March 2nd, 1859.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

Dear Sirs:—I send you a sample of Sorgho Syrup, made last fall. The cane was crushed in a very simple mill, which was entirely a home-made affair. It answered the purpose admirably—the juice was so well pressed from the cane that we kindled the fire with it in two or three hours after it came from the mill. The boiling apparatus was quite as simple and primitive—being two large iron pots fixed in a furnace made of stray stone, bricks, and other pieces of iron found on the premises.

One of the Vice Presidents of the State Agricultural Society, who was here when we were grinding, said, that the mill was nothing in comparison with the furnace. It was something of a curiosity. We made about fifty gallons of syrup, all as nice as the sample sent you, without any assistance except that rendered by our own family.

I sent some of it to Philadelphia, which sold readily at seventy-five cents a gallon.

A more detailed account of my mode of making this syrup, and also a drawing of the mill, you can have if you think it would be of interest to your readers. Very respectfully, yours,

Edward T. Wroth.

We received with the above, a bottle of beautiful syrup, much superior in flavour to the best to be had in the stores. Our correspondent will oblige us further by furnishing the detailed account of his method of making it.—Eds.

APPLES ROTTING BEFORE RIPE.

Madison Co., Va., March 8, 1859.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

Dear Sirs:—I have a healthy and flourishing Orchard of eighty Apple Trees, about twenty years old, which trees have been well cared for, the land enriched, and cultivated regularly in a hoed crop, the trees washed in the spring with strong lye of wood ashes, and having every other necessary attention—yet notwithstanding all this, though they give the annual promise of a good yield of fruit, just as the apples are approaching maturity, they have invariably been seized with a species of *rot*, which causes them to fall from the tree, and thus yearly, to disappoint our reasonable expectation of remuneration, for our twenty years of trouble and expense—will you, Messrs. Editors, or some one of your correspondents, enlighten us as to the cause and the remedy of this very serious evil to every fruit lover.

An insect is the cause. Pick up every defective apple and give it to the hogs.—Eds.

THE PECAN.

Wheatland, Delaware.

Messrs. Editors:—I send herewith a small package of Pecan Nuts. The tree from which these nuts were gathered, grew from a nut brought from the Valley of the Mississippi in 1819 by Dr. Naudair, of this State (Delaware.) It was planted in a garden by John Burnham, on the summit between the Chesapeake and Delaware, and in New Castle Co., Del., about 3½ miles east of Mason and Dixon's boundary line, between Maryland and Delaware.

This tree has grown very fast. Mr. W. Parker, the present proprietor of the land, measured it some time since, and found the circumference, one foot above the ground, to be 8 feet and 5 inches. The tree carries this thickness up very well to the height of 16 feet; after which it branches off into a number of very vigorous limbs. It is estimated that it would make 1½ cords of wood, but I estimate that nearly two cords of wood, have been the product of that single Pecan Nut, within the short space of 40 years, including in this estimate roots, body and branches. The fruit has always matured except once, two winters ago, when the cold destroyed it. Yours truly,

JOHN JONES

SUMMER FEEDING OF COWS IN THE YARD.

Baltimore County.

Messrs. Editors:—If I mistake not, in some of the back numbers of the Farmer, you intimated something like publishing a series of letters upon feeding cattle in the yard. I, for one, would be exceedingly glad to receive information upon the subject. I have a small farm, and circumstances render it necessary for me to keep more cows than can pasture well. I would be glad if you can give me all the information which is necessary for the management of cattle during the summer season.

If you could induce some of the farmers who have practiced it long enough to prove its utility, to step forward and give us their plan, I should be very much pleased.

Will cattle, which have been accustomed to roam at large, thrive when kept up during the hot season. In short, I want to know all about it. You will please give this subject your earliest attention, and oblige A Subscriber.

The above was overlooked, or should have had earlier attention. Will some of our subscribers answer it from their experience?—Eds.

CULTIVATION OF BROOM CORN.

Messrs. Editors:—Can you, or will you or some of your accommodating correspondents give through the pages of the "Farmer;" the best mode of cultivating, harvesting, removing the seed from, bolting, &c. &c., and fitting broom corn for market. Also the general yield on land, say that would grow forty bushels Indian Corn per acre; and any other information that might suggest itself to the experienced grower, that he might deem important to the unexperienced, also the price per ton in the Baltimore Market generally—also what value the seed have for the feeding of poultry, and what quantity of seed may be expected per acre or per ton. Respectfully yours, B.

Winchester, Virginia.

Will some of our subscribers whose experience will justify it do us the favour to answer the above; we have no practical acquaintance with the crop except so far as our own sweeping demands. We have reason to think that it is a profitable one from occasional statements we have seen, and there is none more easily and certainly raised.—*Eds.*

Cork-Oak Acorns.—We are indebted to the U. S. Patent Office for a tin box, hermetically sealed, of these acorns.

MUSKEET GRASS.

FORT SMITH, ARK., Feb. 16th, 1859.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

GENTLEMEN:—I send you, herewith, a small portion of the Seed of the *Black Muskeet Grass*, of which you have heard often, no doubt. I am cultivating this grass on my farm, and believe it to be the very best for hay, pasture, or as a fertilizer, that I have ever known. It stands the drought, the heat of summer, and the cold of winter, better than any grass I have ever known tried in this climate. Try it, and if it succeeds in your climate and you wish to know anything further in regard to it, I will, with pleasure, give you the information. Very respectfully,

R. P. PULLIAM.

We thank our correspondent for the parcel of seed sent with the above, and will give it a fair trial. We shall be glad to hear further from from him.—*Eds.*

EXPERIMENTS IN FATTENING SWINE.

MR. EDITOR:—I send you herein the result of a few experiments in pork-raising in our village.—It is not pretended that there is anything very unusual in the cases mentioned. If it should appear, however, that frequent feeding and *full*-feeding of spring pigs is the surest and readiest way to turn a penny in raising pork, I shall not be disappointed. Nothing, I apprehend, is more common or more unprofitable than to buy shoats in the fall, weighing in the neighborhood of one hundred pounds, and in a year to turn out three hundred and fifty pound hogs, and not much more.

Last June, Mr. Daniel Norton, Jr., of this town, purchased two spring pigs for $4 each, said to be of the Chester county breed. They were taken from the sow about the last of June, being then two months old. They were slaughtered December 2d, when one of them weighed 320, the other 310 pounds. These pigs had the skim milk of one cow about three months, and of two the remainder of the time. But they had as much Indian meal as they would eat. They were never fed less than three times a day, often four, and sometimes five. Pigs recently from the mother, may safely and profitably be fed frequently. The digestive powers are most active in the *young* animal, as matter of theory even; in practice it is found emphatically so; and if the animal is fed always, the growth is never stunted, and the animal does about all it was made to do, in a short time. These pigs were seven months and four days old when butchered, and weighed, as above stated, 630 pounds.

Mr. Abel Goodhue bought a pig on the 14th of June last, then weighing 30 pounds. He was killed December 12th, and dressed off 250 pounds, It was a cross of the Suffolk and Essex breed.—This pig had the skim milk of one cow only, and twelve and one-half bushels of meal. This was his entire keeping, with the exception of from two to three bushels of potatoes, in addition to slop from the house. Here was a gain of just about *one and a quarter pounds a day:* another proof of the advantage of fast-feeding of young animals—and none probably doubt the meat is sweeter through all its stages.

I add the following, not as an example of rapid growth, for it goes to show, like the cases before cited, that the gain is less rapid, as well as more expensive, as the animal advances in age; but on account of the accuracy with which the experiment was conducted. It is really to be wished that all engaged in the fattening of swine or neat cattle, would keep accurate accounts for the benefit of others.

Mr. Samuel Proctor purchased from a drover a shoat, in April last, I think on the 3d, then weighing 120 pounds. The cost was $10.20. He was butchered Dec. 29th, and weighed 353 pounds; this was eight months and twenty-six days from the time when his live weight was 120 pounds, as before stated. Mr. P. fed out twenty-four bushels of Indian meal and one-half bushel of rye meal, which was his entire living, with the exception of slops from the house, (no milk at all,) and a few potatoes, not exceeding three bushels in all. The entire cost of the animal and his keeping, (not reckoning the potatoes,) and allowing for the butchering, was $34.73, and is made up as follows, viz:

Cost of the shoat, April 3,	$10.20
One bushel meal bought same day,	84
One bushel meal,	90
April, 28, one bushel meal,	90
May 6, do. do.	86
May 15, do. do.	86
May 24, do. do.	88
June 2, do. do.	88
June 9, do. do.	90
June 17, do. do.	86
June 25, 6 bushels, at 90 cts.	5.40
Aug. 4, one bushel,	1.06
Aug. 11, one-half bush. rye meal, given in small quantities, mixed with Indian,	54
Aug. 14, one bushel Indian meal,	1.10
Aug. 25, do. do.	1.06
Sept. 17, do. do.	1.06
Sept. 30, do. do.	1.06
Oct. 11, do. do.	1.06
Oct. 23, do. do.	1.06
Nov. 6, do. do.	1.00
Nov. 8, do. do.	1.00
Add for butchering,	1.25
Total,	$34.73

The meal was purchased as often as wanted, and the date of the purchase of each bushel shows pretty nearly the amount in the different stages of the animal's growth.

Mr. P., as the result of his carefully conducted experiment, knows that his pork has cost him just about ten cents per pound, not reckoning anything for time spent in feeding—or rather, perhaps, offsetting this against the manure, which should certainly be done.

Essex, Dec. 21, 1859. DAVID CHOATE.

From the New England Farmer.

IT IS as important that an air of comfort should pervade the surroundings of a house, as that the internal aspect should betoken quiet and harmony. If the farmer begins to study how to adorn his homestead, he will begin to wonder that he has neglected it so long. Trees, plants and vines are given us with which we may make the most uncouth and barren aspect a home paradise. Especially should the children be encouraged to pay attention to this matter. Every farmers' club ought to offer premiums for the most tasteful and best kept yards and kitchen gardens. Let each neighbourhood of farmers contribute to such a premium, and the return will be ten-fold.—*Prairie Farmer.*

PHILOSOPHY OF PLOUGHING.

To a certain extent the *rationale* of ploughing is perfectly obvious. Thus, it is plain that in order to the growth of a desired crop, everything else must be supplanted—that the natural vegetation must be subdued, and that the plough is the most efficient implement for the doing of this work.

In the second place, it is equally obvious that the proper covering of the seed requires a pulverization of the soil, and can hardly fail to have occurred to the dullest mind that the young and tender rootlets of the growing plant can extend themselves more easily and more luxuriantly in a well-loosened than in a soil firmly packed.

But that ploughing should be the means of rendering the soil more moist, freer from certain noxious compounds and really more fertile may not be quite so clear—though each of these propositions is just as susceptible of proof as any of those referred to above.

That ploughing should tend to render the soil more moist in dry weather, is shown by a bare reference to two facts and two principles, in natural philosophy.

The facts are these: First, the atmosphere always contains the vapor of water; and, secondly, the earth when ploughed is more permeable, both by the vapor-laden atmosphere and the water in the earth beneath the surface.

The principles—familiar to every school-boy—are the following: First, the vapour of water when brought into contact with a body much cooler than itself, ceases, in obedience to the law of condensation, to be vapour any longer and becomes water, usually called dew, or, when frozen, frost,—a principal identical with that which covers the cool harvest jug with dampness at summer noon.

The second principle is that involved in the phenomenon of capillary attraction, and illustrated by the rising of oil in the wick of the lamp, or water in a lump of sugar or sponge. If the wick, the sugar, or sponge were as dense as marble or iron, neither the oil nor the water could ascend so as to wet the whole mass: they must be so porous that the fluid can permeate the little tubules or pores of the substance.

Putting together the facts and the principles, is it not apparent that the properly loosened soil will draw moisture from the vapory reservoirs above and the watery channels below more easily than if compact?

WHEN SHOULD WE PLOUGH?

This will depend upon the climate, the nature of the soil, its condition, and the character of the plant to be grown.

In a climate like ours, where cold winters succeed warm summers, a heavy soil is benefitted by ploughing in the autumn—particularly if it has been worn by long-continued cropping, and the nature of the crop to be grown the succeeding season require early seeding, and the previous crop was infested by insects which burrow in the soil. For, if long worn, the soil must be, to some extent, exhausted of the elements at first in available form, and imperatively demands a new pulverization or comminution of the minerals contained, which office the freezing process is especially fitted to perform. And if heavy, and to be sown to a crop maturing early in the season, it would most likely remain too wet to plough, so late in the season as to prevent early sowing.

The question of *time* and *team* should also be considered in a discussion of the subject of fall-ploughing. Since if it is desired to make an early seeding of a large number of acres, and the farmer should be without the requisite men and teams to do the work early enough in the spring, it is plain that, however unnecessary it may appear, for other reasons, economy would dictate that a portion, at least, of the work should be done in the fall.

But if, on the other hand, the soil be very light and sandy—if the crop to be grown will bear late planting—if the area be not too great for the ability of the plowman, and the soil be free from destructive insects, then there is no urgent demand for fall ploughing. Indeed, in case the lands are high and exposed to high winds—which might blow away the soil, if loosened by ploughing—or low, and subject to injury by spring freshets, autumn plowing would be a damage rather than a benefit.

To speak more specifically of the time in relation to the *condition* of the soil, we would urge the importance of deferring the work, in any event, until it is so dry as not to pack as the furrow is turned, and afterwards bake in the sun. Much land is materially injured for years by once ploughing while wet.

HOW SHOULD WE PLOUGH?

We do not mean to inquire whether the furrows should be so crooked that a man without a large phrenological development of Locality would necessarily fail to make his way from one end to the other, or whether every two rods there should be left a balk a foot wide, though we confess that these points are worthy of no little consideration in this country, where straight and well-turned furrows are about as scarce as honest politicians; we propose rather to discuss the more difficult and important subject of depth.

As a general rule, we recommend *deep* ploughing, and are not in the least alarmed at the bugbear reports by Tom, Dick and Harry, of cases in which it ruined the soil! It is high time the invariable four-inch rule was superseded by rational principles capable of easy application to any given case.

Viewing the question in the light of science, the proper answer would be: First tell me what is the character of your surface and subsoil, and the nature of the crop to be grown, for these are data from which alone it will be safe to deduce an answer. We say deep ploughing should be the general rule because there are only two cases to which it is inapplicable, and one of these is susceptible of such modification as that it shall finally cease to be exceptional.

The first and only really exceptional case is that wherein the subsoil contains substances—iron, for example—positively noxious to vegetation; in which event the turning it up to the surface would be disastrous to the crop. This case rarely occurs, however, and may be readily apprehended by any one familiar with the constituents of soils.

The other case is that in which the surface is very thin and lying directly upon a subsoil, which though not positively noxious is nevertheless in an unfit condition for assimilation by the plant, being quite totally deficient in organic matter, and made up of minerals which cannot be appropriated until they have first been subjected to the decomposing

action of the weather. But these conditions are susceptible of modification by turning up an inch or two at a time of the subsoil, exposing it to the action of the air and frost and mixing it with organic manures.

All other soils are benefitted by deep ploughing. Relative to the demands of special plants, it does not come within the scope of this general article to say more than that the roots of all plants penetrate much more deeply than is usually supposed. We have often found the rootlets of wheat rambling at the depth of five feet below the surface, while root crops such as carrots, parsnips, rutabagas, &c., naturally incline to send their larger and more blunt extremities quite deep and cannot be resisted without injury.

SUBSOILING

Properly considered, is based upon the theory that, while it is important to stir the soil to a greater depth than is convenient or even possible with the ordinary plough, it is not always advisable to bring the subsoil to the surface, and is accomplished by a smaller plough—sometimes attached and sometimes entirely independent and drawn by a separate team—following in the furrow of the larger one. Its advantage, therefore, lies in the fact that although not always entirely adequate to a thorough preparation of the soil for the seed, it is nevertheless always beneficial and never subject to positive objection.

We rejoice that deep ploughing and subsoiling are becoming rapidly popular, and sincerely hope the time is not far distant when the miserable Western habit of merely scratching the surface of the ground, and then impiously whining over the meagreness of the crop, will have given place to a deep and thorough working, always prophetic of a bounteous harvest.—*Wisconsin Farmer.*

MODEL AND EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

We learn from the *Southern Farmer*, that there is a "probability *that the Model Farm will be given up.*"

This farm is located near Petersburg, Va. It belongs to the Union Agricultural Society of Virginia and North Carolina. It was the first farm of the kind established in the United States. Its failure, however much to be deplored is nothing more than might have been expected.

For a few years past, there has been a very general and praiseworthy desire, on the part of our most intelligent farmers, for scientific information in regard to the rationale of agricultural practices. This desire for more definite knowledge led to a simultaneous movement in various parts of the Union, in favor of the establishment of "Model and Experimental Farms." Attempts at establishing such institutions were made in Virginia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Maryland, and Iowa. We hope every one of them may succeed, but shall not be disappointed if they all share the fate of the one in Virginia.

Those who originated or have control of these institutions, in many cases, appear to have what we regard as erroneous views of the objects of an experimental farm. The very name "*Model and Experimental Farm,*" indicates a lack of definite ideas on the subject. No farm can be both a *model* and an *experimental* farm. You might as well expect to have a "model" and profitable orchard of seedling apple trees, as to have a model—that is, a profitable—and experimental farm.—Among the seedlings you might have two or three varieties that are better than any yet known; but the great majority would be inferior to those which have been previously tested and recommended by experienced pomologists. So on an experimental farm, some of the experiments might afford better results than the ordinary practices which have been adopted by experienced farmers; but the majority of them must, from the nature of the case, yield results less favourable than the best practices at present adopted.

The worthy superintendent of the Virginia "Model and Experimental Farm," in his report for 1855, wrote as follows: "I will only again express to your Board my increased and confirmed conviction that your experimental farm *will ere long become self-sustaining if not remunerative* in its results, notwithstanding the adverse and unfavourable opinions of many."

A small portion of a farm may be devoted to making experiments, and the profits on the other portion may be sufficient to defray the expenses of these experiments. But in this case the profits must be larger than they usually are, and the experiments must be such as any farmer can make—experiments involving so little care, labour, and expense, as to be of little value.

In instituting experiments, it is assumed that we are ignorant of the *best* system of tillage, of rotation, of manuring, and of general farm management; and the object is to discover it. To obtain this information, we must experiment—we must *try* various systems, modes of tillage, manures, etc. Some of these, as we have before said, *may* be better than those now adopted—many of them will be worse. These trials, too, must be made with great care and accuracy; they must be systematically carried on for several years, or we shall draw from them hasty and erroneous conclusions. Such experiments cause serious interruptions to the general business of the farm, besides involving much extra expense and labour. A good experimental farm, therefore, can not be a profitable one. It is vain to expect it. The agricultural papers of England and this country have commented on the fact that the experimental farm near Dublin, Ireland, has entailed serious loss on its managers. But such a result should excite no surprise. The justly celebrated experiments at Rothamsted, which have done so much to increase our knowledge of agriculture, have cost Mr. Lawes, for many years, from $10,000 to $15,000 per annum. Boussingault's experiments in France could only have been carried out by a millionaire. Even the small and worthless experiment which Liebig made on his ten-acre farm near Geissen, cost $3,200; and we may be allowed to say that our own experiments on corn, notwithstanding the New York State Agricultural Society were so kind as to award us their first premium of $75, entailed considerable loss; and such was also the case with the experiments on potatoes, Chinese sugar cane, &c. In this we were not disappointed. We never expect to see a self-supporting experimental farm; and the sooner such an idea is abandoned, the better for the cause of scientific agriculture.

The experiments which have been made on the Model and Experimental Farm in Virginia, were such as we might expect from an experimental

farm which was designed to be "self-sustaining." Not one of them was designed to throw light on the *principles* of agriculture. They have mostly been trials of this, that, or the other guano, or superphosphates of different manufacturers, the value of which a good analysis would determine as well as the most careful experiment.—*Genesee Farmer.*

THE CROSS BREEDING OF SHEEP—COTSWOLD AND HAMPSHIRE DOWNS.

At the last meeting of the Botley & South Hants Farmers' Club, Mr. John Twynam, of Winchester, delivered a lecture on the "The Cross-breeding of Sheep."

He commenced by stating that the experience of late years had fully proved that the sheet-anchor of the cultivator of the soil was the green-crop system. Crops to be converted into manure by the depasturing of cattle alternately between those and pulse. That the next important consideration which presented itself was the best mode of converting them, and the animals most fitted to accomplish it; and that in reference to, at least, three fourths of the arable land of this kingdom, the sheep stood forth as the most prominent, indispensable agent for that purpose. The lecturer then entered into the history of the modern sheep, and the varieties which experience had proved to be best adapted for the requirements of the present day, namely, the Southdown, the Leicester, the Cotswold, and the Hampshire Downs. Amongst the finer qualities the Southdowns held the foremost rank when the taste of the epicure was to be consulted; old mutton required, parks to be fed, or on arable lands of a dry subsoil, in a warm locality, these sheep might graze with as great advantage as any other. They would also do well long distances without injury, making close bite on short herbage; but in the winter season were not so good proof against our fickle climate in exposed situations. The Leicester for grazing purposes, on rich pastures, where no folding was required, the temperature warm, and weight of carcass with early maturity in view, were perhaps to be preferred to all others, especially when they remembered that this breed had partaken with other breeds of the improvements of the day, for they no longer found them as in the days of Bakewell, beautiful indeed in symmetry and high in blood, but too often like so many rolling tallow tubs, fit more for the chandlers than the butcher's shop, and partly covered with two-thirds of its present weight. There was now a better intermixture of muscle or lean meat with fat, by which the quality of the mutton was much improved, and the fleece was a third heavier, without having suffered any deterioration in quality. The Cotswolds in former days, were of a large, yet rather coarsely grained carcass, with a heavy fleece of wool, possessing a good proportion of lean—more hardy than the Leicester, by judicious crossing with which they have been much improved, arriving much earlier at maturity, yielding a fleece of finer quality, scarcely diminished in weight, and adapted to the same purposes to which the Leicesters alone had hitherto been devoted, with the additional advantage of retaining with the cross their original hardier nature. The produce of the cross is styled "the improved Cotswold," bred chiefly in the counties of Oxford and Gloucester, from the hills of which latter county they derive their name. Acclimated on this elevated part of the kingdom, and feeding on pasture far inferior to the rich herbage on which the Leicester are in the habit of grazing, it is to be expected that they would be characterized by a disposition to improve when removed into former soils and fuller keep. I have known them wintered on the arable soils of Hampshire, in the open air, with hay and turnips only, become superfluously fat; while other breeds fed on the same food, side by side, have barely sustained themselves in store condition. In describing the character of the Hampshire Down, which also prevails over a great part of Wiltshire, we must bear this point continually in mind: These counties, from their open fields and system of farming, are particularly adapted for store or breeding-ewes, and rearing of such a description of lamb, as will suit the feeders who come to their great Fairs in the Summer for the purpose of purchasing, with the view of bringing them out the following Spring, as well-fattened mutton for the London market.—The aim, therefore, of the Hampshire and Wiltshire breeds is to combine size, quality, aptitude to arrive at early maturity, and a heavy fleece of good quality, with a constitution sufficiently hardy to undergo the process of consuming the green crops, and folding on the ground where they go, thereby leaving a field dressing for the crop of corn which is to follow. Now it will be at once apparent that the task of forming, as it were, an animal in which shall be combined the necessary qualities for these several purposes, requires the soundest judgment and constant care, and is attended with many difficulties. The better points of different breeds require to be fused into one mould; and this daring exploit, for daring it was declared to be by a public, bigoted to old customs, and prejudiced against the smallest deviation from the beaten track of their ancestors—has been made with signal success by many of the more enlightened flock-masters of these counties. They saw population had so gained on the heels of production, that a greater weight of meat was annually required to be grown; that simultaneously with increase of number of sheep, they bethought themselves that to improve the symmetry, increase the aptitude to fatten, and arrive at heavier weights, with the same food, might be quite as economical a mode of supplying the increased demand, as to effect it solely by the increase of numbers. They had before their eyes the parent breeds of the matchless Southdowns, Leicesters, and improved Cotswolds. These, in their separate state, were unfitted for the system of arable farming, as well as for the description of carcass which has the "call" in the market at the present day. To meet the requirements of both, an amalgamation was decided on; and the the result was a carcass of mutton, exhibiting the early maturity of the Leicester, the muscle of rich lean of the Cotswold, and the superior grain of the Down—a carcass ripe at fourteen months old, instead of at three or four years, as formerly.—From this admixture, assisted by the original Hampshire breed, which was founded about the beginning of the present century, on (the then prevailing breed of the country,) the old horn ewe and Sussex ram, the present new Hampshire breed was formed. No long pedigree of what is

called "purity of blood" can be claimed by any Hampshire flock-master; but he has the satisfaction of knowing that it is the admixture he has made which constitutes the value of his stock; for neither of the parent breeds from which he derived it, can claim comparison with his own for the union of qualities necessary to form the most useful and best adapted sheep for the profitable consumption of his green crops, or so satisfactorily to meet the demand of the consumers of mutton or of wool.—*London, Farmers Magazine.*

COMPARATIVE PROFITS OF SHORT WOOL AND LONG WOOL SHEEP.

Mr. Editor:—I have read with much interest in the February No. of the *American Farmer*, a controversy upon small carcass and fine wool vs. large carcass and coarse wool. Having had much experience with the two sorts, I am disposed to give you the result in my case.

About the year 1836 I took a flock of imported Saxons on shares. I kept them three years for one-fourth of the increase and one-fourth of the wool. The owner of these sheep asked for the bucks $50, and for the ewes $30. Long before my contract terminated I felt that I had "been sold." The lambs were as delicate as a new born babe. The bucks with their immense horns knocked each other into the "middle of next week." If this failed to finish them, the flies laid their eggs on their bruised heads, and thus they were "done for." When the contract was ended, the gentleman of whom I got the flock did not get any increase in number. One year we obtained in Boston 60 cents per lb. for the wool, there being no home market for such fine wool.—The average price obtained in the three years was about 40 cents, and the average weight of fleece about three pounds in the dirt. As soon as this contract ended, I joined with a neighbour, and gave $10 for a half breed Liecester buck lamb, and I recollect we were much ridiculed for paying so much. I sold of the crosses of this fine carcass and fine wool breed, as mutton, 19 head:

Average weight 39½ lbs.,	- -	749 lbs.
Sold and delivered net at	- -	7 cts.
		$52.43

The Liecester breed was soon abandoned, and the Cotswold chosen. In a year or so I ventured to give $50 for a Cotswold buck, which, at fourteen months old, weighed, gross, 155 lbs. In the month of August following, he weighed 190 lbs. I was so unfortunate as to lose this buck before getting much of his stock. I bought another, a better sheep, at $55; but the price was reduced on account of my hard luck. This buck weighed gross, 164 lbs., at a little more than a year old.—In the following August his weight was 210 lbs. Recollect that I commenced breeding the large sheep on the small, about the year 1840. In 1850 I killed a mutton ewe, gross weight 158 lbs., net weight 91½, and tallow from entrails 7 lbs. 2 oz. In 1851 I took the premium for the best slaughtered mutton at Charlestown, Jefferson county, Va. The mutton killed for this occasion was a wether, 18 months old, and weighed, net 111 lbs. I obtained for it $13.10. This was about three-fourths breed. In 1852 one of my ewes (when sucking a lamb 2 months old) sickened and died; her carcass weighed, gross, 150 lbs., net 86 lbs.—In 1852 I sold my farm in Jefferson; but long before my regularly advertised public sale, my sheep were all sold privately, as follows:

7 ewes and 8 lambs for - -	$300.00
1 buck lamb and 2 ewe lambs, -	100.00
1 buck lamb, - - - -	30.00
2 " " at $25 each, -	50.00
15 ewes at $7, - - -	105.00
20 fat wethers at $6½, - -	130.00
27 lambs at $4, - - -	108.00
6 ewes, - - - - -	34.00
1 ewe, - - - - -	5.00
10 ewes (tail end) at $4½, - -	45.00
101 sheep as above, - - -	907.00
Average of each, a fraction under $9.00	
I kept wool enough to serve me, and sold 373 lbs. at 20 cts., - -	74.60
	$981.00

Figures are irresistible when they are correct, and you may rely upon it that these are so, for my sheep breeding book was kept with the greatest accuracy. Respectfully,

Thomas G. Baylor,
Prince George Co., Va

Southern Farmer.

COOKERY.

A writer in the New York Spirit of the Times says:

The refinement of a family is nowhere so quickly seen as at the table, and nowhere do men's sensual, selfish instincts become more prominent. There is the centre of the family after the day's wandering; there its first meeting after a night of forgetfulness; there we give hospitality to the stranger; there the tongue is loosened, the wandering thoughts called back, and the heart is warmed into expression under generous fare. "He has eaten with me," is the Arabian talisman to protection, and the christian has made a supper the emblem of his religion.

Then, what constitutes a supper? Even the simpler half of a meal, being the food and its preparation, apart from its physiological bearings, is worthy of a thoughtful study. As to that other half of a dinner, the people that are to sit around it, they being chosen only on festive occasions, to them I do not allude.

Equally important to a man's physical being, as to his moral health, is the character of the food on the table. It may be sufficiently cooked, crude, and indigestible; it may be overdone, sodden and heavy; it may be dried to a chip until the nutritious juices are evaporated, or it may be fried to an oily mass that it requires the strongest stomach to analyze. Then, again, the food that was originally ample and rich, may be so wasted by the culinary process, that what was once abundant is prodigally reduced.

One or the other of these faults universally affects nearly every dish that is placed on American tables.

To avoid such evils, and cook sufficiently without wasting, and in the most economical quantities, is a high art of life, and one of the simplest and most overlooked. It is slighted by the intelligent and left in the hands of the ignorant; and those whose duty it is to govern, are punished in health for their neglect.

AMERICAN FARMER.

Baltimore, April 1, 1859.

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MARYLAND STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY'S EXHIBITION FOR 1859.

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Maryland State Agricultural Society, held on the 1st day of March, a Committee was appointed to confer with the Frederick County Agricultural Society with reference to their invitation to hold their next annual exhibition on the grounds of that Society. This Committee composed of the President of the State Society, Mr. Merryman, and Mr. J. H. McHenry, visited Frederick, and entered into such arrangements with the County Society as will no doubt result in holding the next exhibition at that place. An addition will be made to the grounds now occupied by the Society, which will give an area of fifteen acres. The grounds will be put in complete order for the use of the State Society, and a full supply of hay and straw furnished without cost. The arrangement was originally made to depend upon the contribution of funds by the citizens of Frederick, sufficient to enable their Society to carry it out. This call has been made, and we learn with liberal and no doubt very ample success. We announce therefore with confidence that the State Society will hold their annual exhibition for the present year on the grounds of the Frederick County Society at Frederick.

We have no doubt at all as to the sound policy of such a change of location, both as regards the interest of the Society and of the agriculture of the State. Frederick as is well known, is situated in one of the finest agricultural districts of the State, and while her Farmers are equal to any in public spirit and energetic improvement, the natural effect of such an exhibition will be, to give an impetus to her agriculture which will tell upon her interests for years to come; while the thousands of visitors who will flock there, will no doubt bring away with them many good lessons in cultivation, and a great many kindly regards for a generous and hospitable people, whose acquaintance they will have the opportunity of making.—We trust the Society will be properly sustained by exhibitors of implements, stock, &c., and must remind the Farmers of Maryland, of the obligations they are under to give it countenance by their presence and to aid it by membership subscriptions.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Agricultural College was held, at the College, on the 15th of March. There were present Messrs. Calvert, President of the Board, Earle, McHenry, Merryman, Dennis, of Frederick, Eldridge, Mitchell, Sothoron, Davis, Goldsborough, and Worthington.

A thorough and very satisfactory survey of the new building was made by the Board. The excellent plan and arrangements, they found to have been most faithfully executed by the builder, Mr. Chapman, under the vigilant supervision of Dr. Wharton, the Register, and Mr. Calvert.

The Register made a full report of all the matters in his charge, all disbursements under order of the Board, and submitted the several accounts to them, for their action. All of which were duly disposed of at once, or referred to committees for examination.

Committees were appointed, one composed of Messrs. Mitchell, Earle, and McHenry, to report a plan for the organization of the College; and Messrs. Eldridge, Davis, and Worthington, to report a code of laws and regulations for its government. These committees will report to an adjourned meeting, to be held on Tuesday, the 5th day of April, at 10 o'clock, at the office of the "American Farmer," Baltimore, when the whole matter of the organization will be discussed and determined, with a view to the appointment of Professors at the earliest period practicable.

The Building is so nearly completed, that it is hardly premature to say, that the College will probably go into operation on the first of September, and there is every prospect from very numerous indications, that it will go into operation with as full a number of students as it can accommodate.

MODEL AND EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

The mind of the agricultural community is very much directed to the subject of special instruction in Agriculture, Model Farms, Experimental Farms, &c., and it is desirable to bring ourselves to some settled and defined opinions upon these subjects. We copy, in another place, the views of Mr. Harris, of the *Genesee Farmer*, on the subject of Model and Experimental Farms.

While we differ somewhat from Mr. Harris, as to what constitutes a model farm, he draws an important distinction between that and an experimental farm.

A model farm may and should be self-sustaining; an experimental farm cannot be. We do not think that the farm which yields most profit, that is mere money profit, is the model farm.—We have known farmers who could show large returns in money crops, and large profits in money, whose crops were made at the expense of the comfort of their family, excessive labour of servants, neglect of enclosures, and general slovenliness, and want of care in the minor branches of their business; who would look to and care for only "the main chance;" that which would show most money profit. We do not call such men model farmers, nor their farms model-farms. The model-farmer, in our opinion, is he who looks chiefly to be sure, to a money profit, as the substantial ground-work of his operations, but does not stop at that. He will have his fields substantially enclosed; his gates in the best order; his barns and buildings well arranged and in good condition; his dwelling-house and that of his servants, comfortable, neat and convenient; his garden, his orchard; his flocks and herds—in a word, his whole farm in all its departments will show the well-judging, right-thinking, systematic man of business, and the liberal, kind, true-hearted father and master.

Now there is no difference between a private model-farm and a public one, except that the latter is presumed to start with funds in hand, and may do at once under skilful and prudent direction, what an individual usually finds advisable to accomplish by degrees. The public model-farm has the specific purpose in view of showing in all points what a well-ordered, well-conducted farm should be, and uses at once the means to adapt it to that end. But to sustain its character, it must show, in a series of years a reasonable profit on the investment, or it is no model in the most material point of farm management.

An experimental farm is an entirely different matter. The design here is not profit, it is research and discovery. Every neighborhood, almost, has an experimental farmer; but who ever knew one to make money by his operations?—Who does not know on the contrary, that without large means to back him, the experimentalist in his zeal is very apt to break himself down. Such an one, if a man of intelligence, is often a public benefactor: his neighbors reap a profit from his losses. If, among numerous failnres, he meets with a success, he takes no patent for his discovery, and the practical men around him appropriate the result of his labours. A public experimental farm is instituted for the purpose of scientific research, and all experience shows, what a little reflection would teach us, that conducted on a scale of any magnitude, these experiments are made at great cost. It is a cost from which paying results to the agriculture of the world at large may be expected; but it is well that all who are engaged in enterprises of the sort should count their cost in advance, lest they bring upon themselves the reproach of him who began to build, but was not able to finish.

Mr. Harris, it will be observed, in the article before alluded to, classes our Maryland enterprise with a number of others, all of which have his best wishes, but for all of which he predicts a speedy downfall. If it were a mere experimental farm, or a mere agricultural school we should have as little confidence in its success as he has. But it is far otherwise. It is, perhaps, the wisest scheme of education which the wit of man has yet devised; not for farmers merely, but for every body. Its design is not merely agricultural instruction, it is *education* in its broadest, fullest sense. Its agricultural features are important and distinctive, but they are subsidiary to the great chief end, *of the sound mind in the sound body.*

We propose, however, to go more fully into the subject hereafter.

PLOUGHING UNDER VEGETABLE MATTER—DEEP AND SHALLOW PLOUGHING FOR WHEAT.

In publishing in our March No., the paper of Mr. Stavely, we should have corrected his evident misapprehension of Mr. Hewlett's views on the subject of ploughing under vegetable matter for the improvement of land. So far from condemning the practice, no one is a more decided advocate of it, and the very point of Mr. Hewlett's communication was to encourage it, by showing that the necessity of close grazing or burning, or otherwise cleaning the sod, was the effect of imperfect ploughing. His design was to prevent the waste, as he conceived, of vegetable material by giving such a deep and thorough ploughing as would put it out of the way of any injury to the immediate crop, and, at the same time, save it for the soil.

If Mr. Stavely could see such crops of peas as we have seen ploughed under by Mr. Hewlett's team, not as an occasional thing or an experiment, but as a part of his system, regularly pursued year after year, he would no longer suspect him of condemning the turning under of a heavy vegetable growth. These peas are sown two bushels per acre, on land which most farmers would think quite able to take care of itself for a number of years to come without manure, and are ploughed under twelve inches deep—a very heavy job of work it is, but it is done thoroughly; and by such deep ploughing, with a very heavy rolling,

no injury results to the wheat by leaving the land light and puffy, as it would be with a shallow ploughing. It was the shallow ploughing which Mr. Hewlett condemned, not the vegetable matter.

As to top-dressing wheat with manure, that is a matter for experiment, and the result may vary with variation of soil, season, &c. There can be no question as to its good effect in securing a good stand of clover and other seeds; and farmers of good judgment have assured us of their success in top-dressing the crop of wheat, in the increase of that crop.

As to burning off the crop of dried clover in August, the design was to get, what we know a great many of the most experienced wheat-growers think very essential, a thoroughly clean sod to plough. When it is borne in mind that this burning does not take away from the soil the highly important mineral elements of the plants burned, but leaves them in the ashes in the most perfect state for appropriation by the wheat plant, the practice will not be considered so wasteful, even as regards the improvement of the land, while the result to the wheat is very decided. We learn within a few days that the crop on the field subjected to this treatment, as mentioned some time since, surpasses any in a neighborhood which is remarkably well-farmed.

The question made by Mr. Hewlett was between burning or grazing closely all such matter; or ploughing it under so deeply as to prevent the injury apprehended to the crop. But here he is met by the objections of those who condemn deep ploughing for wheat, and think the shallowest possible furrow the best for this crop, even when their practice is otherwise for all others. It is an interesting topic which we should like to have treated by others.

INFORMATION ON TOBACCO GROWING.

There is a good deal of demand just now all over the country, for information on the management of the tobacco crop. We give, as occasion requires, such suggestions in our monthly memoranda as suit the season, but they are, necessarily, in some particulars, only such as apply to the Maryland crop. We are endeavoring to get from various sources, such accounts of the method of handling the various sorts in other States, as may prove useful to our readers there. We shall be very glad of assistance in this matter.

Our editorial friends North of us, are much put to it, we find, to supply this new demand upon them. Being all gentlemen bred in the most moral manner, they are conscientiously ignorant of such an "evil weed." But their "constituents" think it a profitable crop to grow, must have the information, and the information is supplied. In the first place, our enterprising cotemporary, the *American Agriculturist*, a year ago advised its readers to sow their seed the first week in March, and plant out about the last week of the same month. Then our good neighbour, the *Genesee Farmer*, gives an article headed "the best method of making plant beds," furnished by a correspondent. It advises the making a bed about the size of a big window, and covering with glass, to bring the plants early. Our friend, Wilson, of the *Marlborough Gazette*, who is something of a wag, copied this article for the amusement of his readers; and Prince George's Co. papers being considered high authority in matters appertaining to tobacco, this "best method of making plant beds" has obtained quite a respectable currency among our exchanges. But the most precious piece of instruction we have found yet, is the following from the "*Rural American*," which is now taking the rounds:

"GROWING TOBACCO.—As soon as the frost is out of the ground, burn a brush heap, and while it is hot, rake in the seed. When the plants have leaves about an inch long, transplant to rich, warm soil, and set them out about four feet each way. Keep the weeds down, and by all means keep off the "Tobacco worm." Nip off the seeds as fast as they come, and let the plants stand until they become spotted with yellow spots the size of a five cent pice; then cut them close to the ground, and hang them over a pole in the shed to dry. When sufficiently dry, so as not to break the leaves, pack them in a pile so that they can sweat; then hang them up again."

We respectfully suggest to our friends, the Bowies, Mullikens, Hills, Grahames, &c., of Prince George's, that if any of their plant beds should exceed, say, four acres, and they find it inconvenient to cover with glass, they may take the advice of this writer, and "burn a brush heap, and rake in the seed while it is hot." It will save them immense labour in the after cultivation of their crops. "When the plants have leaves an inch long (!) transplant to a rich, warm soil." We advise them, moreover, to handle them gently, and plant their crops along the south side of a plank fence. To "keep down the weeds," "keep off the worms," and "nip off the seeds," they will observe, too, are highly original suggestions, and worthy of their gravest attention. They will also, of course, "hang their plants over a pole in a shed," or in the stable loft, as may suit their convenience. Should they want any further instructions, we refer them to the writer, as above.

WORK IN THE GARDEN.

There is little to be added to our notes of last month. Refer to them and give early attention to such suggestions as have not been attended to.

Early Corn—Should be planted by the middle of the month for roasting ears, and at intervals afterwards. Manure well with compost, and give the seed a coating of tar, as the best protection against insects and birds.

Peas.—Plant peas at intervals of two weeks.—Have the sticks in readiness, if not yet in place, for the high-growing ones.

Lima Beans.—This valuable vegetable, one of the

most profitable and easily grown, should be sown by the last of the month, if the soil be a warm one.—Pole should be got in time—one and a-half feet in the ground, and six feet above is length enough. When the beans run to the top of these, stop the upward growth by pinching off the ends. They will throw out lateral shoots and bear more abundantly.

Cabbage Plants—and other hardy plants of sufficient size, may be planted out.

Strawberry Beds—may be planted out. Old ones may be still manured—the grass cleaned out of them and coarse litter or straw put over them to keep grass down, and preserve moisture.

Sweet Potatoes.—By all means have a crop of these in the garden, if not in the field. Refer to the article in last month's number of FARMER for method of preparing beds, and get the potato bedded without delay.

Melons.—Early this month lay off the ground for your crops of water-melon and canteleupe. Haul out well prepared composts, and place a sufficient quantity (and it must be a large quantity) on the spot where the hill is to be made, and draw the earth well over it. Let it lie so until it is nearly time to plant, when the earth and compost should be thoroughly chopped and intermingled. About the first of May is time enough to plant, but the sooner the manure is placed on the ground the better. The water-melon should be planted on light soils; the canteleupe will thrive on good loam.

FLORICULTURE—April, 1859.

Prepared for the American Farmer, by W. D. Brackenridge, Florist and Pomologist, Govanstown, Balt. Co., Md.

The winter having been mild, has advanced the growth of plants in the Greenhouse; as the spring advances and things become crowded inside, it is better to remove the half hardy kinds out into cold frames, Lauristinus, Carnations, Cinerarias, Pansies, Roses, Heaths, Epacris and Primroses, stand over the summer better, when removed early to frames, where, if cold weather set in, they should be protected at night by mats, this will give more room inside for the display and better development of such plants as Calceolarias, Fuchsias, Pansies, Verbenas, &c.

If you want compact bushy plants of Azaleas, Lauristinus, Acacias, Pittosporums, and Chorozemias, use the knife freely now, in pruning back all straggling shoots. Continue to pot off and propagate all plants required for bedding out, and sow seeds of tender Annuals.

Pelargoniums.—Give the plants plenty of room and air, keep them tied neatly to their stakes, and do not let the Aphis over-run them.

Gloxinias and Achimenes—will now require to be shifted into larger pots.

Fuchsias—will require to be repotted, train the leading branches erect, and let the laterals remain pendent.

Chrysanthemums—should now be propagated by cuttings or division of the roots; give a little bottom heat to the cuttings.

Double White and Purple Chinese Primroses.—This is a good season to propagate these by cuttings. The single kinds that have done blooming, had better be placed out in dry cold frames.

Petunias and late Calceolarias—may now be shifted into the pots in which they are to bloom.

Hydrangeas—this is a good season to propagate these; shift small plants into larger pots.

Cactuses—as these begin to show flower buds, give water more freely.

Camellias—attend to the shading and syringing of these until they have finished their growths.

Alstræmerias—shift into fresh earth and pots the remainder of these.

OPEN GROUNDS.

This is the month in which the gardener should be most busy in making arrangements, if he wishes to have a fine show in the flower garden during the summer, by having his compost heaps all ready to spread on, and dig into his flower beds in dry weather. Prune all roses, dig and prune in all straggling branches on your shrubbery, and cut away all dead wood. Top-dress and roll the lawns, as long as the ground is moist, also, pare the edgings of grass plats, and roll your gravel walks.

Uncover Tulip and Hyacinth beds.

Gladiolus—may now be planted out.

Pansies and Carnations—from the cold frame can now be planted out in open beds to bloom.

Sow Rochet-Larkspurs—in open ground.

Annuals—of the half-hardy kinds should now be sown in cold frames, to be forwarded for planting out in May.

Pæonias and other hardy herbaceous plants—can now be divided, and transplanted into beds.

Hardy Shrubs—should be planted without delay.

CONDITION OF BREEDING SOWS.

An esteemed correspondent at Assumption, Illinois, says:

"In February No., you say the fear of breeding sows being too fat, is absurd. You err in this, as experience in hog raising in Illinois, teaches.—Breeding sows too fat, frequently lose nearly all their pigs, by overlying and in birth. Hogs get *very* fat in Illinois, friend Worthington. It is not good for any animal to be too fat at the close of pregnancy."

Our remark should have been somewhat qualified; we admit that it is quite *possible* that breeding sows may get too fat, but our remark was aimed rather at the probable than the possible. If store hogs get *very* fat in Illinois, let us say to our friend, they are not subject to a like infirmity in a good many other "diggings" that we are cognizant of.—We designed to apply our advice to the ninety-nine who fail to feed their breeding sows sufficiently, thinking as in our friend's case the exceptional *one* would take care of his own. Perhaps now we can give him a hint that will serve him with his fat sows. Mr. Clement Warns, near Baltimore, gives very especial attention to this branch of breeding. It is an important part of his business to rear Chester and, sometimes, other hogs for sale. His breeding sows are kept in a yard throughout the season, and are fed with corn, vegetables and slops of mill feed, all that they will eat. With a weight equal to 300 lbs. of dressed meat, and as fat as any pork ought to be, they bring litters of from twelve to nineteen pigs. One fine sow brought this last number alive, and four being taken away, the remainder were raised by her. The hint we would give our Illinois friend and others who are troubled with fat sows is this; keep them so gentle by kind treatment that they will not be easily disturbed at the

time of bringing their young; put them on a *level plank floor*, with a moderate bed of *cut* straw or leaves; and have their pens under cover, and so arranged that an attendant may reach over without getting into the pen and release any pig that may be accidently caught by the sow in lying down. These hints and careful looking after them, will save many a pig, and the credit of many a fat sow.

EXPERIMENTS WITH MANURES—CALIFORNIA GUANO.

We are indebted to C. B. Coursey, Esq., of Kent county, Delaware, for a copy of proceedings of the Annual Meeting of the Agricultural Society of that county. We find, among other things, an interesting account of experiments made by Mr. Coursey with various fertilizers. The agricultural community is always under obligations to gentlemen who will be at the pains and expense of such experiments, and make them public. These experiments were made with Allen & Needles' Super phosphate, Jourdon's Super phosphate, Rhodes' Super-phosphate, Mifflin's Blood Manure, California, or Elide Island Guano, Peruvian Guano, and Manipulated Guano. The results show a loss in one plat of the entire application of $8 per acre, owing to the excessive drought; and in the other plat of about $5 per acre.

In the first named there was no increase whatever in the crop; in the second, the increase was not sufficient to pay expenses—but the several fertilizers stand as follows in the comparison:

	Baskets.
1 acre without manure, - - - - -	7
1 acre Allen & Needles' Superphosphate, 330 pounds, at $45 per ton, cost per acre $7.42, - - - - - - -	14
1 acre Pacific in the hill, $7.42, - -	14
1 acre Rhodes' Superphosphate, 256 pounds at $47 per ton, combined with 56 pounds Peruvian, $7.42, - - - - -	16
1 acre Jourdon's Superphosphate, 270 pounds at $44, combined with $54 pounds Peruvian, $7.42, - - - - - - -	19
1 acre Mifflin's Blood Manure, 330 pounds, $7.42. - - - - - - -	9
1 acre Pacific Guano, 330 pounds, $7.42,	18
1 acre Peruvian Guano, 270 pounds, $7.42,	22½
1 acre 207 pounds Pacific, combined with 100 pounds Peruvian, $7.42, - -	21½
1 acre Manipulated, $7.42, - - - -	19

This shows a loss of about five dollars.

Mr. Coursey has a high opinion of the California Guano, but complains, as others have done, of the large per centage of water in the cargo of the "Empress of the Seas." We are sorry to add that the hope of bringing this Guano into competition with Peruvian is, probably, at an end, as we learn the little Island is, perhaps, nearly exhausted.

The above-named report contains, likewise, an interesting account by Dr. Emerson, of Philadelphia, of the improvement of a farm in Delaware, exclusively by the use of Jourdon's Superphosphate.

MAMMOTH VEGETABLES.

From J. C. Luitwieler, of York Co., Pa., we have received some specimens of vegetables that are of very large size and perfect form. Among them is a head of Cabbage 4 ft. 3 inches in circumference in one direction, and 3 ft. 8 inches in the other, and weighing 29 lbs.; Parsnips 13 inches in length, and about 4 inches in diameter at the crown, and a huge Beet, besides some specimens of fine English Fluke Potatoes. We had occasion to examine the vegetable products raised by the skill of Mr. Luitwieler, the past autumn, and exhibited by him at the Agricultural Fair, at York. The specimens recently received by us from him almost equal those exhibited by him on that occasion. As a skilful gardener and nurseryman, we believe he is not surpassed by many. The nursery under his charge near York, is one of the best arranged and managed we have seen; and though of very recent establishment we hope it will not be long before his trees will have attained sufficient size for sale. We know of none, so far as his stock extends, that we could more highly recommend. His training in one of the first establishments at Rochester, has admirably prepared him for success in the nursery business.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

From the author we have received a copy of an Address, delivered before the American Geographical and Statistical Society of New York, and entitled "A Statistical View of American Agricultural," by John Jay, Esq., foreign corresponding Secretary of the Society. This, an elaborate pamphlet of some 80 pages, contains a great amount of statistical information relating to American Agriculture, condensed and compiled from the U. S. Census Reports and other authentic sources.

From Charles L. Flint, Sec. of Mass. State Board of Ag., we have received the 6th Annual Report of the transactions of the Worcester North Ag. Soc., being the Report for 1858. A copy of "A Prize Essay on Agricultural Education," by Wilson Flagg of Andover, Mass. A Catalogue of the Agricultural Library in the Office of the Sec. of the Mass. State Board of Ag. A copy of "The transactions of the Housatonic Ag. Soc. for the year 1858, including the Address of Marshall Warner, Esq., of Stockbridge, Mass."—also from the same, sundry specimens of the "Circulars" issued by the Mass. State Board of Ag., containing various queries on different Agricultural subjects, made to elicit information from the farmers of that State.

From Ben. Perley Poore, Esq., Secretary, we have a copy of the "Transactions and Monthly Bulletin of the U. S. Ag. Soc." for 1858.

Gas Tar on Peach Trees.—We advise our friends to use the Gas tar very guardedly on their Peach trees, as suggested by our Annapolis correspondent in February. We learn from others who have tried it, that it is effectual as to the killing of the worms, but is attended with much danger to the trees.

CATALOGUES RECEIVED.—From Messrs. L. Ellsworth & Co., of the Du Page Co., Nurseries Naperville, Ill., their Deseriptive Catalogue for 1859-60 of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, &c., handsomely printed, but very many instances of incorrect spelling. From B. K. Bliss of Springfield, Mass., his Descriptive Catalogue for 1859, of his collection of Flower, Vegetable and Garden Seeds. From Messrs. Isaac Jackson & Co., of Jennerville, Chester Co , Pa., their Catalogue for 1859 of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, &c.—From Messrs. Geo. Page & Co., of Balto. Md., their Descriptive Catalogue of Machines invented and manufactured by them. From Thomas Meehan, of Germantown, Pa., his Catalogue of Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, &c., for 1859. From John M. Hunter, of Ashley, Washington Co., Illinois, his Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, &e., for 1859.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE LAND BILL.—We will not say that we are disappointed at the veto by the President of the bill appropriating public lands for the endowment of Agricultural Colleges in the States. We did not expect it to pass either the House of Representatives or the Senate, but it passed both, and we got more than we looked for. We thought the President would veto it and he has done so. On the whole we are enjoying with respect to it that beatitude ascribed to those who expect nothing and nothing get.

P. S.—Will our friend Major John Jones, of *Delaware*, be good enough to give us instruction as to his interesting article on the best way of investing the fund arising from the land sales? (written while the bill was in the President's hands). "What will he do with it?"

DR. MERCER AND THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—We have the pleasure to announce another contribution of $2,500, to the Maryland Agricultural College by that excellent friend of the enterprise, Dr. William Newton Mercer, of New Orleans, making in all seven thousand five hundred dollars. At the recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the College the donation was handsomely acknowledged by resolution. We congratulate the College not more for this liberal addition to its funds than for the high appreciation of its proposed system by an intelligent gentleman, a citizen of a distant State.

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—We regret exceedingly to see announced in the Michigan Farmer, that the Agricultural College of that State is about to lose the valuable services of J. R. Williams, Esq., the gentleman so well known to the agricultural community as President of the College, and for his zeal in behalf of agricultural education generally. Mr. Williams we learn has tendered his resignation of the Presidency of the College.

☞ A friend in Madison Co. excuses a little tardiness in paying his bill, by saying that he has many boys to educate, and means, not in exact proportion. He offers the following as the best wish he can make for our prosperity: "If you have not the sons, I hope you may have them, with ample pecuniary ability to educate them as you wish." We heartily thank him, but we *have* the sons: from ten months to seventeen years—to say nothing of daughters—*fruges consumere nati*; or, as Mother Goose has it, "They live upon nothing but victuals and drink." Our friends, therefore, will please confine their good wishes to the pecuniary clause of the subject, comply with our terms and commend us to their neighbors.

☞ A friend in Fauquier Co. writes to know if a year's subscription sent by him was received, and says: "If not, let me know, and I will try again. I think I had much better pay twice, than that you should go without remuneration for your time and labour." Would that all men had *half* the mind to do right that this man has.

☞ A correspondent in Monongalia Co., Va., to whom, in consideration of numerous kindnesses in sending us subscriptions, &c., we mailed our paper without charge, says: "I live with my father, and have the use of his *Farmer*, so you need not send it to me. I think editors have a hard time enough, any how, and do not wish to make any thing off of them."

Per Contra.—A gentleman in St. Mary's Co., Md., sends in Feb., 1859, one dollar, which was due us in Dec., 1857. He had the use of our money for fifteen months without interest—a small sum to be sure, but *ours*; he runs two months into another year, getting two numbers (worth 20 cents) for nothing, and says: "I wish to discontinue my paper, as *I have a neighbour* who takes it, and I can read his." There be differences, mark you!

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

An esteemed correspondent near Lynchburg, inquires, "Who can decide as to the best Reaper, when each is supplied with an equal amount of testimony? Can't you decide for us? We want one for rough land."

We cannot decide, but we may say this, among three or four of those now in use, we should give the preference to the manufacturer who most uniformly puts up a substantial, reliable machine, not liable to be shaken to pieces by a little hard usage. This is a point, in our opinion, of more importance than any difference in the character of the machines otherwise. Nearly all of them cut well when made well. But it is very little worth the farmer's while to get a first rate cutting machine if it is to break down before the harvest is half over.

THE TOBACCO PRIZE.—We had hoped to be able to give our North Carolina and Virginia friends, who have written to us on the subject, such drawings and descriptions as would enable them to have put up for themselves, after getting the irons, the tobacco prize of which we have spoken heretofore. We have not been able to do so; and fear that with the best description they might be disappointed. We would suggest, as a surer way of having their wants supplied, to have one of the best machines made entire, here, as a

model by which their own carpenters might make others. One such would answer as a model for a large district. We learn since, that we understated considerably the cost of the wood work of one of these machines. A planter of Prince George Co. informs us that the best machine in use there, costs, complete, some sixty dollars; and that it will prize twelve hogsheads a day, if so many can be hand-packed.

THE PLANTER AND MECHANIC.—We call attention to the advertisement of the *Planter and Mechanic*, an excellent Agricultural publication, at Jackson, Mississippi, published by J. J. Williams, Esq. In reply to Mr. Williams' private note, received only in time for this very brief notice, we have to say, that we find the *Planter and Mechanic* duly entered on our exchange list, and cannot account for his failure to receive the *Farmer*. We cheerfully reciprocate his friendly regards, and wish him abundant success in his enterprise.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MD. STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

BALTIMORE, March 1st, 1859.

The Committee met pursuant to the constitution. Present, Jno. Merryman, Esq., President, and Messrs Ware, of Virginia, O. Bowie, of Prince Georges', Jas. Mullikin, of Prince Georges', N. B. Worthington, of Anne Arundel Co., G. M. Eldridge, of Cecil, and G. R. Dennis, of Frederick County.

The proceedings of the last meeting were read, and the Secretary was called on to report, in regard to the application to the Stockholders, to permit an interregnum of one year, in the holding of the annual show on the grounds of the society. Mr. Sands, reported that in accordance with the instructions of the Committee, given at their last meeting, he had waited on a large number of the shareholders in the grounds, and, with the exception of two of them, received their permission to withhold the show for the coming year, if it was found to be advantageous to the interests of the society to do so—one of the two, withheld his assent, and the other desired time to consider the matter. In every other case, where he had been able to see the Stockholders, consent was given, though it was generally regretted that any cause should render it necessary to hold the show elsewhere.

The President stated that the period for which the show grounds had been rented to Mr. Moffatt, would expire on the 31st March. On motion of Mr. Ware, a Committee consisting of Mr. Merryman, Mr. Worthington and Mr. McHenry, was appointed to make the necessary arrangements for renting the same.

A communication from Dr. S. P. Smith, of Alleghany, was received, apologizing for his absence from the meeting by unavoidable circumstances.

Mr. Ware, gave notice that at the next annual meeting of the Society, he would propose as an amendment to the constitution, to strike out the preamble, and the 4th section of the 2nd Article; also the 12th Article.

Mr. Mullikin, moved that a Committee be appointed of which the President should be the Chairman, with full authority to confer with the Agricultural Society of Frederick County, at their meeting, in regard to the necessary arrangements for the next annual exhibition of the State Society, should the said Committee deem it advisable to accept the proposition of the Frederick Society. Mr. McHenry and Mr. Dennis were appointed the Committee with the President. On motion, the President was authorized to fill any vacancy in the committee.

On motion the Committee then adjourned.

SAML. SANDS, Sec'y.

"APPLES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN OHIO."

After writing for the last number of the *Farmer*, and sending to press, our comments upon a communication from a correspondent, in Prince George Co., Md., in reference to the article in our February No. entitled "The Apple in Ohio," we received the note below, from John H. Klippart, Esq., Corresponding Secretary of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture; by whom the last Report of that Board was edited and compiled, and a very large proportion of it written. Mr. Klippart's note was accompanied by an anonymous communication, having the title at the head of this article, and addressed to us. To this, as a gentleman for whom we have such high respect as Mr. Klippart becomes its sponsor, we cheerfully give place;—not, however, as Mr. Klippart "trusts," "in order that our readers may not be misled by the article which appeared in our last issue." There is nothing in that article to mislead; and, we think, the writer of the "explanation," given, below, is therein more unfortunate if possible than in his original contribution to the Ohio Report.

Ohio State Board of Ag., State Ag. Rooms,
Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 19th, 1859.

Dear Sirs:—In order that your readers may not be misled by the article which appeared in your last issue, I trust you will, in your next, publish the enclosed explanation; and, that you may not be charged with publishing anonymous communications, you may hold me responsible for this article. Respectfully, yours,

JOHN H. KLIPPART,
Cor. Sec.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The article in your last Number, on "The Apple in Ohio," strikes an Ohio readers as an illustration of the tendency there is, among editors and others, in this age of steam and electricity, to fall into the habit of reading and writing without sufficient thought. It is singular, indeed, that you should have failed to notice, that your article contains, within itself, all that is necessary for its own refutation.

In the extract from the Ohio Agricultural Report, against which your remarks are particularly directed, it is explicitly stated that "of six varieties of winter apples specified, of Eastern or Northern origin, not one is a reliable and profitable fruit in most parts of *Central and Southern Ohio*;" while other varieties, of more Southern

or Western origin, are the "most approved and reliable kinds *for this region.*" But, by a singular oversight, after repeating these specific limitations of the text, you go on with the assumption, that the whole of our broad State is referred to: and then, because the "witnesses," from the Northern and Eastern counties, represent a different state of things, in their portions of the State, (which we all admit,) forsooth, the writer of the article in the Agricultural Report is most "unfortunate."

There are *eighty-eight* counties in our State, and only just half of these (fourty-four) made answers to the inquiry about apples. (Kelly's Island is only a part of Erie county.) Of these, not more than one-fourth are embraced in the "Central and Southern" district; hence, to prevent the answers from misleading readers of the Report, a note was appended, which you also copied, stating that "only about half the counties in the State are reported in this list, and the omissions are *mostly in the South-West.*" If it is asked why no answers were generally given from the counties in "Central and Southern Ohio," the reply is, mainly because winter apples have so generally failed there, of late years, (from causes already stated,) that few farmers are able to name six varieties that have been found reliable. As before stated, the bearing orchards are generally composed of the Eastern varieties, which have utterly failed; and the others named, being of comparatively recent introduction, have not, as yet, become generally known among the farmers.

This fact will also account for the apparent contradiction there is, between the answers from a few counties, and the assertions of the Report. Those answers, with others relating to agriculture, were furnished by farmers—not *pomologists*—and in stating which are the best six winter apples in their county, they would, of course, name such as they have in bearing, within their knowledge, in the county; and those who are familiar with the pomology of Ohio, are well aware that not one-tenth of even our intelligent farmers throughout the State, are, as yet, acquainted with, or have seen tested in their counties, any other winter apples than those furnished from the New York Nurseries; and yet there are persons in various parts of the State, who have given particular attention to the subject, and have tested other varieties long enough to fully sustain the assertions contained in the article you have so "unfortunately" criticised.

Respectfully, &c.

THE WRITER.

Columbus, Feb. 17th, 1859.

Our correspondent has "a local habitation" at all events, if no "name"—and Columbus appears to be his home. This is in *central* Ohio certainly. Divide Ohio into three nearly equal parts, according to latitude,—they will be Northern, Central and Southern Ohio. The central may be described as bounded on the North and South by two parallel lines, drawn nearly at right angles to the line of the Western boundary of Ohio, and which, if extended thence eastwardly, would strike for the northern line, the Northern extremity of the "Pan Handle of Virginia," and for the Southern would fall upon and become identical with the Southern boundary of Pennsylvania, or our own Mason & Dixon's line. To divide Ohio into two portions of nearly equal area, lying East and West of a common line, let that line be drawn from Sandusky city in the North to the confluence of the Little Scioto with the Ohio River in the South.

We were perfectly aware that there were 88 counties in Ohio. In computing the number of counties from which replies were given to the interrogatory, "which are the six best winter apples"—we made an error of one unit, setting it down as 45 instead of 44—an error into which the Ohio report was the cause of our being mislead by inconsiderately printing the name "Kelly's Island," in the same large type as the names of the counties, in the same alphabetical list, and giving the reply from it as though it had equal dignity with a whole county, though only a part of Erie. Finding it so dignified it occurred to us that it might have possibly been raised to the dignity of a county, which, perhaps, if it continues to increase in reputation for profitable fruit culture, as it has of late, it may yet become. In making our remarks, last month, upon the article in the Ohio Report, written by our anonymous correspondent, we had before us for convenient reference, the map of Ohio, so carefully drawn by *J. H. Klippart* to illustrate "The Mean Annual Precipitations in Ohio," and which may be found among the illustrations engraved in the Ohio Report. We drew upon this map the parallel lines to describe the geographical divisions of which we have spoken, and marked carefully, each county, in each division from which the answers mentioned in the Ohio Report were received; and, thus, it will appear that the article, so obnoxious to our correspondent from central Ohio is *not* "an illustration of the tendency there is among editors and others in this age of steam and electricity to fall into the habit of reading and writing without sufficient thought."

There are 32 Northern, 28 Central and 28 Southern counties in Ohio. Answers were received from 21 Northern counties, or two-thirds, from 14 Central, or one-half, and from 9 Southern, or one-third. These counties are so distributed over the State as to represent very fairly every section, except the South-west. Now we cannot tell what the answers would have been from the counties that gave no answers—we have to deal only with those from which replies were received; we have nothing to do with apples that ought to have been cultivated, but only with those that were; and the interrogatory in the Report was addressed to ascertain what was the real opinion of the farmers of Ohio according to their actual experience, not what was their opinion as

derived from books or hearsay, or from even the amiable contributor to the Ohio Report. The farmers of Ohio may be lamentably ignorant and do not know what really good apples are, but they answered according to their knowledge, and the result of this popular opinion is given in the Ohio Report. Let us see whether even in the division of Ohio favoured by the residence of our correspondent—the Central—the voice of the farmers, so far as it has been heard, in his own article sustains his assertion "that of all (not of six merely, as he incorrectly quotes from his own article) "the leading varieties of winter apples thus furnished from Eastern nurseries as *Baldwin, Spitzenberg*, R. I. Greening, *Roxbury Russet, Red Canada, Hubbardston's Nonsuch, &c.*, not one is a reliable or profitable fruit in most parts of Central and Southern Ohio." The counties in Central Ohio from which answers were received to the question about the six best winter apples are about equally divided between the Eastern and Western halves of that division of the State. An analysis of the highest votes shows that *R. I. Greening* received 8—Rambo 8—Newtown Pippin 7—Roxbury Russet 7—Baldwin 7—Spitzenburg, and Bellflower each 6. Of these seven apples five are of Northern and two of Eastern origin—only one, the *Bellflower*, being commended by our correspondent—and four are among those specially named and condemned by him in the Ohio Report as "neither reliable nor profitable." If our correspondent were ever so correct in his opinion in relation to the best winter varieties of apples he could not maintain its correctness by the proof adduced in the answers published from the 44 counties in Ohio, so thickly dotted as those counties are over every section of the State, except the South Western corner.

It is clumsy practice, in any Court, to bring in witnesses to testify, and then find their testimony directly contradicting the allegations of the party by whom they were introduced; but the policy is absolutely suicidal to attempt to discredit and stultify those witnesses, in order to escape the consequences of their disclosures. The answers from the fourty-four counties, says our correspondent, "were furnished by farmers—not *pomologists*—and in stating which are the best six winter apples in their county, they would, of course, name such as they have in bearing, within their knowledge, in the county; and those who are familiar with the pomology of Ohio, are well aware that not one-tenth of even our intelligent farmers throughout the State are, as yet, acquainted with, or have seen tested in their counties, any other winter apples than those furnished from the New York Nurseries." Thus it appears that even from our correspondent's own showing; if every county in the State of Ohio had returned answers, the Apples of Eastern and Northern origin, and especially those coming from nurseries in the State of New York, would have been declared, by an irresistable majority, the best. He admits that the farmers of Ohio—of the whole State of Ohio—by a vast majority, consider the apples raised from trees bought from the New York nurseries to be the best; but only so because they are ignorant and benighted. But if they were so ignorant, why summon them to testify at all? We hope that the whole of "the *one-tenth* of even the intelligent farmers" of Ohio, will first become acquainted with the virtues of some of those apples considered so superior by our respondent, and "not one of which," he the itinerant venders of the New York trees for sale; and then that the *other nine-tenths*, hasten to enjoy the same blessing with their fortunate brethren. It may deserve consideration, however, whether those same mischievous troublesome, enterprising New York nurserymen may not anticipate this pomological millenium and, at this very moment, be preparing to possession, as they have heretofore, according our correspondent, of the fruit-growing lands Ohio, and invade the peaceful homes of the intelligent farmers of that State with an army of trees those very varieties of apple so approved of by correspondent. We presume that most of his vourite apples may be had at such celebrated tablishments as those of Messrs. Ellwanger Barry, Frost & Co., Hooker & Co., and others Rochester; of Thorp, Smith & Hanchett, at Syracuse, and of many other well known nurseries the "Empire State."

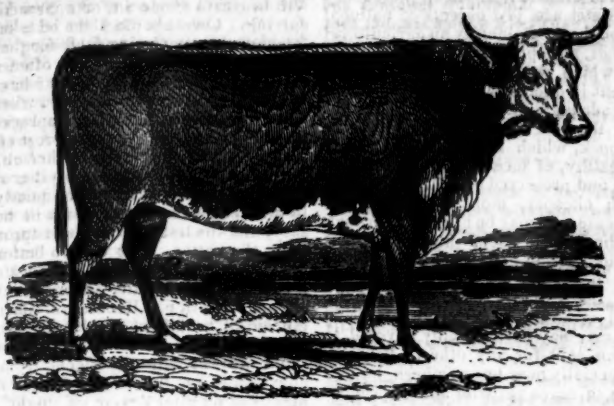
We find in the "*Ohio Cultivator*" for May 1st, of the present year, published at Columbus, the residence of our anonymous correspondent, an article entitled "Apples for Market," signed "B"—in which the writer in reply to a letter from a correspondent in the county of Jackson, one of the extreme southern counties of Ohio, gives a list of the best market Winter Apples adapted to that section of the State. "B" says, after giving a portion of his list, "and if the land is elevated and somewhat sandy, add *Baldwin, English or Golden Russet, Swaar, Newtown Spitzenberg, and Northern Spy*. These are certainly apples of Eastern and Northern origin; and two of them, the *Baldwin* and the *Spitzenberg*, are among those specially condemned by our anonymous correspondent in the Ohio Report, as neither "*reliable nor profitable*," in his contribution to the State Paper. In this list of winter apples in the Ohio Cultivator, we find named as among the best apples, the "*Fameuse*," the celebrated apple of *Canadian* origin, and "*Talman's Sweet*." Now, if Northern and Eastern apples are so objectionable, according to our anonymous correspondent, we would respectfully refer him to the writer in the "Ohio Cultivator," to reconcile, upon Ohio and Columbus authority, the discrepancy between himself and that *Writer*. R.

LOOK TO YOUR CANE SYRUP.

We advise all who have Chinese cane syrup to keep an eye on it. Out of between forty and fifty bottles sent us by different individuals during the fall and winter, we already (Feb. 10th,) find five specimens in which fermentation has commenced. Keep your syrup in the coolest place about the premises. On the appearance of the slightest fermentation, we should add a little soda, scald, and reduce to a greater consistency. We venture the assertion, that nine-tenths of all the Chinese cane syrup, made last fall, throughout the State, will sour before next July, unless extreme caution be exercised in taking care of it. We think the evidences of this fact is before us.—*North Western Farmer.*

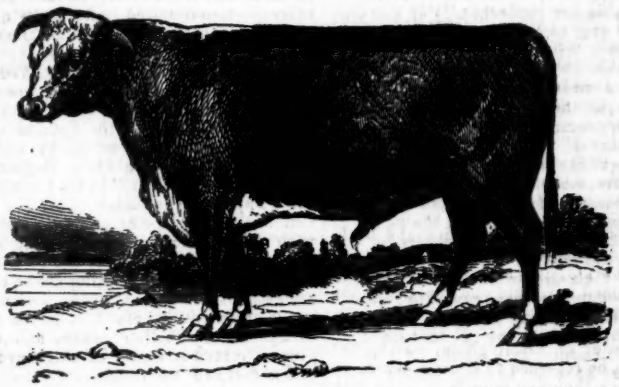
No man can tell whether he is rich or poor by turning to his ledger. It is the heart that makes a man rich. He is rich or poor, according to what he *is*, not according to what he *has*.

HEREFORD CATTLE.



CORA.

Calved February 1855—Dam, imported "Milton"—Sire imported "Cronkhill"—imported by Hon. Levi A. Dowley, Brattleboro, Vermont, owned by John Merryman, Esq., of "Hayfield's, Baltimore county, Maryland.



CRONKHILL III, Sire of "Cora"—*Owned in Massachusetts.*

We give, above, engravings of two fine specimens of the Hereford breed of cattle. The likeness of the cow is that of one recently purchased in Massachusetts, by John Merryman, Esq., President of the Maryland State Agricultural Society and added to his herd previously acquired from W. H. Sotham, Esq., of New York.

We have received from Charles L. Flint, Esq., Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture and author of lately published and very valuable work on "Milch Cows and Dairy Farming, the following note accompanied by the "cuts" therein mentioned.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS—AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.

State House, Boston, March 18th, 1859.

To the Editors of the American Farmer:

Gentlemen:—I send you by Adam's Express the wood cut of "Cow"—Mr. Merryman's cow, drawn and engraved for my work on Milch Cows. It was "taken" when she was "dry," and hence the udder is small.

"CRONKHILL III," her father, I also send. It is a capital likeness and gives a good idea of him, so far as any cut of the size can. He also appeard in the Dairy Book. I am sorry that I did not send them at an earlier date, as I promised Mr. Merryman. I waited to have the cow electrotyped, but I have been so crowded with work during the session of the Legistature that I could hardly keep my head up. I am indebted to you for the regular receipt of the Farmer.

Very cordially and truly
your ob't servant,
CHARLES L. FLINT,
Secretary, &c.

WOOL IN THE UNITED STATES.

The growth and diffusion of sheep husbandry in the United States are just objects of national solicitude. Though pre-eminently an agricultural people, we do not, and probably never did grow the wool with which we are clothed. Though producers of meat in excess of our own consumption, we are not adequately supplied with mutton, which is among the best of meats. Our farmers live mainly on pork, which is the grossest, least cleanly, least healthy, of meats, and which must mainly be cured and preserved by salting, whereas mutton is much cheaper, more palatable, less conducive to disease, and may be had fresh through two-thirds of the year. Sheep husbandry, but for the ravages of vagrant dogs, that ought to be dead, might be profitably prosecuted in nearly every State of the Union. The slopes of the Alleghanies, and of every mountain chain from Maine to Alabama, may be profitably devoted to this pursuit, when unfit for any other. Pennsylvania alone, especially near her northern boundary, has millions of acres yet wild and unproductive, which might profitably be devoted to the production of choice mutton for the New York and Philadelphia markets. Virginia has at least an equal area of land admirably adapted to sheep husbandry, and to none other. Texas has already some large flocks which are rapidly increasing; and in due time the whole region, stretching several hundreds of miles eastward from the Rocky Mountains through New Mexico, Western Kansas and Nebraska, from lat. 49 down to the line of Texas and still lower, will be found admirably suited to sheep growing. This is a pursuit requiring rather skill and watchfulness than the severest toil, which yields quick and generous return, and which does not exhaust, but tends to improve the soil. The relative cheapness with which wool may be transported, the ease and safety with which it may be kept on hand, are great recommendations. Of one thousand bushels of Indian corn grown in Iowa and shipped eastward for a market, at least six hundred will have been consumed in freight and charges by the time the grain reaches this city, and another hundred by the time the remainder is laid down in English Manchester or Birmingham, leaving but three hundred to be returned to Iowa in wares or fabrics; while one thousand pounds of wool may be transported from Iowa to the British manufacturing districts for a twentieth part of its value. In other words: a Western farmer who grows grain for market, must sell it for less than half its average price throughout the civilized world; whereas, if he grows wool, he can be sure of a cash market at his own door only five to ten per cent. lower than its price in the very highest markets. And should the price be low one year and the producer desire to hold over, wool may be securely stored for less than one per cent. per annum of its value, and will lose nothing by keeping; whereas grain is not only more bulky and more exposed to depredations from vermin, but deteriorates in quality simply from being kept on hand. As our settlements shall extend further and further Westward, therefore, away from the seaboard and from cheap transportation, the inducements to sheep husbandry must be constantly increasing.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

MANAGEMENT OF COWS IN CALVING.

Towards the close of winter, a herd of cows will begin to come in, or approach their time of calving. Care should then be taken not to feed too rich or stimulating food for the last week or two before this event, as it is often attended with ill consequences. A plenty of hay, a few potatoes or shorts, and pure water, will be sufficient.

As the time of calving approaches, the cow should be removed from the rest of the herd, to a pen with a level floor, by herself. Nothing is needed, usually, but to supply her regularly with food and drink, and leave her quietly to herself. In most cases the parturition will be natural and easy, and the less the cow is disturbed or meddled with, the better. She will do better without help than with; but she should be watched, in order to see that no difficulty occurs which may require aid and attention. In cases of difficult parturition the aid of a skillful veterinary surgeon may be required. * * * * * * *

To prevent any ill effects from calving, the cow should not be suffered to get too fat, which high feeding after drying off might induce.

The period of gestation is about two hundred and eighty-four or two hundred and eighty-five days. But cows sometimes overrun their time, and have been known to go three hundred and thirteen days, add even more; while they have and then fall short of it, and have been known to calve in two hundred and twenty days. If they go much over the average time, the calf will generally be a male. But cows are sometimes liable to slink their calves; and this usually takes place about the middle of their pregnancy. To avoid the evil consequences, so far as possible, they should be watched; and if a cow is found to be uneasy and feverish, or wandering about away from the rest of the herd, and apparently longing for something she cannot get, she ought to be taken away from the others.

If a cow slinks her calf while in the pasture with others, they will be liable to be affected in the same way.

In many cases, physicking will quiet the cow's excitement in the condition above described, and prove of essential benefit. A dose of one pound of Epsom or Glauber's salts, and one ounce of ginger, mixed in a pint of thick gruel, should be given first, to be immediately followed by the salts, in a little thinner gruel.

When a cow once slinks her calf, there is great risk in breeding from her. She is liable to do the same again. But when the slinking is caused by sudden fright or over exertion, or any offensive matter, such as blood or the dead carcasses of animals, this result is not so much to be feared.

But the cow, when about to calve, ought not to be disturbed by too constant watching. The natural presentation of the fœtus is with the head lying upon the fore legs. If in this position, nature will generally do all. But if the presentation is unnatural, and the labour has been long and ineffectual, some assistance is required. The hand, well greased, may be introduced, and the position of the calf changed; and, when in a proper position, a cord should be tied round the fore legs just above the hoofs; but no effort should be made to draw out the calf till the natural throes are repeated. If the nostrils of the calf have protruded, and the position is then found to be unnatural,

the head cannot be thrust back without destroying the life of the calf.

The false position most usually presented is that of the head first, with the legs doubled under the belly. A cord is then fixed around the lower jaw, when it is pushed back, to give an opportunity to adjust the fore legs, if possible. The object must now be to save the life of the cow.

But the cases of false presentation, though comparatively rare, are so varied, that no directions could be given which would be applicable in all cases.

After calving, the cow will require but little care, if she is in the barn, and protected from changes of weather. A warm bran mash is usually given, and the state of the udder examined.—*Hunt's Milch Cows.*

We take from the Frederick *Examiner* the following notice of a new work on Agricultural Chemistry, which Professor Baer has been, for some time past, diligently preparing for publication. We have had an opportunity of examining the large map to which allusion is made, and do not doubt it will afford great facility in impressing the mind of the Student with the facts it designs to teach. The method is a very good one, and much credit is due to the author for the untiring industry he has devoted to it. His work will be the result of many years zealous devotion to Chemistry and Geology in their application to Agriculture. The book itself we have had no opportunity of examining.

Professor W. Baer, of Sykesville, is preparing for publication, a work on Agricultural Chemistry, to be used in Schools, as well as by such as may of themselves wish to acquire a knowledge of scientific Agriculture. The work consists of a map and a book of questions and answers in explanation of the map. The map presents to the eye the basis of the science, in the order in which the various subjects of which the science treats can be most conveniently considered.—First, in order, comes the Atmosphere in which all things live, and the four gases. Then, the moisture of the Atmosphere and its contents are presented. Next, the powers of affinity of the four gases and their action, and the economy of life that results, are given. Then simple substances, such as Chlorine, &c., forming their salts, are presented. Next, a table of Chemical Nomenclature follows, as a dictionary of terms. Then, come the Acids and Bases with their equivalent numbers and affinities, arranged in their order of relative power. Then, come diagrams illustrating the composition and decomposition of substances. So much for the chemistry.

The subjects, next in order, pertain to agriculture more immediately. The climates of this country and of Europe are exhibited with their respective degrees of temperature and quantities of rain; and the different effects of the different ways in which rain falls are pointed out. Next, 72 soils, the best and worst of America, Europe, Asia and Africa, with their analyses and their colors are given. These soils are then classified by taking Alumine, Iron, and Lime as the basis. The map ends, by diagrams representing vegetables growing in various soils under different climates.

The book of questions and answers is to contain, in epitome, the large map, so that private persons may get the whole work at a small price —the large map being intended for instruction in schools. Prof. Baer exhibited the large map, measuring 20 feet long by 3 in width, at the Frederick Academy at the recent meeting of the Agricultural Society.

LIGHT IN STABLES.

There are some hints in the following extract, which those who are planning new barns, as well as all others, would do well to have in mind.—In our climate, in that season when flies are most abundant, especially in the heat of the day, when animals of all kinds in a state of nature seek the depths of the forest, barn cellars or caves of the earth, darkness is peculiarly grateful; hence stable windows should always be provided with close shutters.

Stables should be so constructed, by the insertion of windows in various parts of the building, that they should be *light as day.* A *dark* stable is only a suitable *black hole,*—prison house for such a vicious specimen of the equine race as the notorious *Cruiser;* it is also the very worst location for any kind of animal. Sir A. Nylie, (who was long at the head of the medical staff in the Russian army), states that the cases of disease on the dark side of an extensive barrack at St. Petersburg, have been uniformly, for many years, in the proportion of three to one, to those on the side exposed to a strong and uniform light.—Humboldt has also remarked, that among bipeds, the residents of South America, who wear very little clothing—thus allowing the cutaneous, as well as the orbital surfaces, to receive a free ray of light, enjoyed immunity from various diseases, which prevailed extensively among the inhabitants of dark rooms and underground locations; and so excellent an authority as Linnæus contends that the constant exposure to solar light, is one of the causes which render a summer journey through high northern latitudes so peculiarly healthful and invigorating. Dr. Edwards has also remarked, that persons who live in caves or cellars, or in very dark and narrow streets, are apt to produce deformed children; and that men who work in mines are liable to disease and deformity.

Light, therefore, is a condition of vital activity, and in view only of preserving the sight of a horse, it is absolutely necessary that while he is occupying the stable, his optics shall have free access to the sun's rays.

If a horse was in the same condition as a polyp, with no organ of vision, who shuns light, a dark stable might prove to be his earthly paradise; but as the horse has *special* organs of vision, evidently susceptible to the influence of light, and the integrity of his organism, or a part of the same, depending entirely on the admission of light, it is absolutely necessary that stables should be constructed accordingly.—*Amer. Vet. Jour.*

Shun a man who does not pay his compliments to the ladies. He who is wanting in honor towards curls, will invariably attempt to dodge the grocer, tailor and butcher. Faithlessness to the dimity institution, is a sure sign of a want of principle, piety, and good bringing up.

GUANO ISLANDS.

Our Government, in a law passed by Congress, in August, 1856, authorized any citizen, who might discover any uninhabited island, rock, or key, containing guano, not under the jurisdiction of any other country, lawfully to take possession of it in the name of the United States, and under certain restrictions named therein, lawfully to occupy and enjoy the same. This enactment, giving a new impulse to American industry and commercial enterprise, led to the immediate occupation of two guano islands in the Pacific, called Jarvis and Baker's islands, and after some years of difficulty, arising out of the non-performance of instructions given to the first government agents sent out to commence operations, a company has now succeeded in working them efficiently, and cargoes of the article have arrived, and are constantly arriving, at the ports on the Atlanic seaboard. Again, within a few months past, some enterprising American ship captains have taken possession of other islands almost under the equator in the Pacific, and directly in the route between San Francisco and Australia, called Christmas and Howland's, and Malden's and Arthur's islands, and have secured their right to these and certain others by the legal formalities required by the act of Congress. The former was discovered by Capt. Cook on Christmas day, in 1777, and, though frequently visited by whalers, has never been occupied or claimed by any nation till now. It is 35 miles long, of crescent shape, and contains within itself a lagoon, with a safe entrance, large enough to hold in safety the largest navy in the world. It is covered with guano to a great depth.

Howland's island is but three miles long and one mile wide. Vessels can safely lie in the southwest side, and it has considerable vegetation and large beds of guano. Both these islands are visited by countless millions of birds, and their eggs cover acres of ground at a time. The discoverers have united themselves with some enterprising merchants and others in a company called the United States Guano Company, and the ship Ivanhoe is now on her way from San Francisco for a cargo, and every ship that returns thence to the Atlantic ports can, if she has no better freight, bring back a cargo of guano from these islands at fifteen dollars per ton freight.

The late arrivals from Honolulu bring us the news—and what we have said previously, prevents any surprise on our part—that the Emperor of France, by a commissioner of the name of Kerveguen, has formally taken possession of a guano island called Clifferton, lying about 550 miles westward from Acapulco, 10 deg. 19 min. north latitude. This is another proof of the sagacity of that remarkable man; and the next thing we shall probably hear is, that England has followed his example.—*Union.*

HENS LAYING ALL THE YEAR.

Some people think that if they keep their hens warm in the winter, that they will lay eggs freely all the year; but that is a mistake, as fowls can be made to lay but about 10 dozen eggs each in the year, if ever so great pains are taken with them in the winter; and when they lay a good deal in the winter, they lay enough less in the spring, so that not over the average of 10 dozeu eggs are obtained usually. The *Prairie Farmer* has the following statement, which leads one to infer that his hens may be made to lay 100 or 200 eggs in a year—according to the management of them. Still, the better treatment spoken of is advisable, as more eggs will be laid in the winter, by adopting it, when they command a better price, but it will be at the expense of the regular spring laying.

Treatment of Hens.—Two flocks of hens were compared. One laid eggs almost all the time; the other laid scarcely any. On examining their treatment, the following differences were found to exist: the former had a warm cellar to roost in during the winter; the latter roosted in a stable where the wind blew in. The former had a fine place in an open cellar for scratching among ashes, lime, and earth; the latter scratched in the manure heap, or in the stable when the cows were put out. The former had plenty of good water, with milk, &c.; the others had no drink except what they could find.—*Rural Americus.*

A COMPARATIVE STATEMENT

OF THE PRODUCT AND VALUE OF MILK AND BUTTER.

BY GEORGE S. BOUTWELL.

I commenced saving milk for butter on the 10th of May last, and continued until October 1st.—The milk was weighed once a week, and twenty pounds were considered equal to one can of eight quarts. The milk would have sold for eighteen cents a can, and the butter was sold for twenty-four cents a pound. I give the result of each month's operations:

MILK.		BUTTER.	
May, 163 cans	$29.34	177½ lbs.	$42.6
June, 241½ cans	43.47	201½ lbs.	48.3
July, 188½ cans	33.93	166¾ lbs.	39.8
Aug., 211¾ cans	38.07	193¾ lbs.	46.5
Sept., 202½ cans	36.45	174¾ lbs.	41.9
	$181.26		$219.6
Cost of making 914¼ lbs. butter at 5½c	50.28	Value of residue of 1007 cans at 8c	80.5
	$231.54		$300.1 231.5
		Difference in favor of butter	$68.6

☞It is thus seen that during the entire season 21 pounds of milk produced a pound of butter; but in the month of May only 18.3 pounds were required.

Groton, January 10, 1859.—*New Eng. Far.*

Birds—Preparation of Seed Corn.—"A Plea for the Birds" in your paper causes me to come forward with my plan, which is a plan to receive the benefit of the insect-catching propensity of the birds, and a remedy against their corn-pulling operations. It is this: as soon as your corn comes up feed the birds. Crows will not (as far as my experience goes) pull corn if they are properly fed, and they want feeding but a short time. Two quarts sowed over a field of ten acres about twice, while the corn is in danger, will supply all that take the privilege of boarding on me; but even if it took a half bushel or a bushel, it would be cheaper by far than exterminating the birds. I tar and plaster my seed at planting (use gas tar). I never had any difficulty about my seed coming up.—*Country Gentleman.*

LAND SALES.

MARYLAND.

Anne Arundel Co.—The farm of the late N. Nicholson, near Davidsonville, at Trustees Sale, to J. J. Nicholson, for $103.00 per a., 105 a. Brook Mead, Esq., sold 103 a. on A. & E. Railroad, near Crownsville, to —— Owings, at $60 per a. Improvements moderate. H. H. Hopkins sold B. Mead 100 a. at $35 per a., about 1½ miles from Crownsville. *Baltimore Co*—J. R. Chance, auctioneer, sold, at the Phœnix Station, on the Northern Central Railroad, a tract of land and improvements, called "Blythenia Cambria," on the old York Road, about 15 miles from the city. 12¼ a. at $18 65 per a. Purchased by J. M. Gorsuch, Esq. *Cecil Co.*—Four hundred a. of the tract known as Geoffarrison, near North East, to Mr. Leiper, of Delaware Co. Pa., for $6.51 per a. The farm of the late G. Holloway, near Cowantown, containing 61 a. for $20 per a. Mr. T. Dougherty purchaser. *Frederick Co.*—Farm of S. Dixon, Esq., on W. bank of Monocacy, 2½ miles E. of Frederick, 127 a., at $55.25 per a., to W. Reich, Esq.; also, on account of E. L. Delashmutt, agent, a farm on E. bank of the Monocacy, near the above farm, 130 a. at $16.36 per a., to A. Delashmutt, Esq. *Howard Co.*—Mr. T. Wiltberger has sold his farm, 3 miles below the Relay House, and at the 10th mile-stone on the Washington turnpike, 250 a. for $15.000, or $60 per a., to W. L. Torbert, of Penn. *Prince George's Co.*—W. B. Bowie, Esq., has sold to W. P. Pumphrey, Esq., 170 a. at $80 per a. This land lies on the Washington road, opposite the dwelling of Mr. Pumphrey, the Marlboro, and was formerly part of the real estate of the late B. Mullikin, and was purchased by Mr. Bowie in 1852 at $40 per a. The "Brookridge" Plantation, about 4 miles south of Marlboro, about 900 a., belonging to estate of the late Col. Cross, was offered for sale on Monday last by W. B. B Cross, Esq., Trustee. The highest bid (made by a gentleman of this neighbourhood) was $74.56 per a., which was refused, and the land withdrawn.—R. W. W. Bowie, Esq , has sold 220 a. of unimproved land in Queen Ann District, to Grafton H. Isaac, Esq., for $6.000. This is considered by good judges to be very cheap land. S. H. Berry, Esq., as Trustee, sold three parcels of land belonging to the estate of the late Alex. McKee, in the upper part of Aquasco district. A tract, 317 a., to Mrs. M. Cook for $6 per a. Tract No. 2, 35 a., bought by Miley Garner, at $6 per a.; and the Lot of 50 a., with the dwelling-house, bought by J. Brady at $13.56 per a. The home farm of the late Mrs. Mary Herbert, 400 a., to R. D. Hall for $17,000; and the farm of the late Mrs. Mary Berry, 824¼ a., to J. E. Berry, Jr., at $39.60 per a. *Somerset Co.*—S. C. Long, Reg. of Wills, his farm, "Glen Mary," 348 a., 1 mile from Princess Anne, for $11,500, to H. E. L. Morris. Dr. S. Ker, his farm, "Bolton," near White Haven, for $8,500, to L. E. Lynch. I. W. Crisfield, Trustee, at public sale, the Roketston farm in Stewart's neck, 5 miles from Princess Anne, 450 a.—improvements poor—for $6,750, to J. W. Dennis, Esq. *Washington Co.*—The Trustees of the real estate of A. Hogmure, 185 a. of said real estate, embracing the home farm, for $65.50 per a. Purchaser, Miss A. Spielman. 15 a. of Meadow Land, adjoining Hagerstown, and belonging to M. W. Boyd, for an average of over $100 per a. Purchasers, J. Dixon Roman, Henry Freaner and Samuel Eichelberger.

VIRGINIA.

Albemarle Co.—Col. J. B. Strange has sold his residence and other buildings, and land hitherto occupied by him for the Albemarle Military Institute, to Mr. R. Omohundro, of Gordonsville, for about $13,000, and has purchased the farm of Mr. Omnohundro, lying near Gordonsville. *Madison Co.*—A farm, 136 a., near Rochelle, and adjoining the lands of Col. N. I. Henkel, B. Scott and others, by Noah Price for $33 per a., to S. Tusing. Same land sold about 10 years ago for $7 per a. *Berkely Co.*—The "Home Farm" of R. Stewart, Sr., dec'd, near Darkesville, 182 a., at public sale, by the executors, to Mr. R. D. Bryarly, for $45 per a.

PENNSYLVANIA.

Chester Co.—C. Hoyle, of South Coventry, his farm of 18 a. and 29 p., to C. Dietrich, of Phila., for $20.50. The farm of N. B. Hammond, 100 a., in New London tw'p, to J. W. Hammond, for $7,000. The administrators of the Estate of E. Barnard, of Upper Oxford, the farm of 75 a., to W. W. Taylor, of West Chester, for about $70 per a. C. Kerns, of Penn. tw'p, his farm of 75 a., to W. Johnson, of Jennerville, for $80 per a. Wm. Allen, Jr., of Newlin tw'p, his farm to J. Jackson and son, of E. Marlborough—112 a. for $9000.—Mr. Allen has purchased the farm of W. B. Grover, in E. Marlborough,—69 a. for $6000. *Lancaster Co.*—C. Nields, his farm in Valley tw'p, 125 a., to J. S. Walters, of E. Cain tw'p, for $6500. J. Coulter, of Newlin, his farm to A. Way, Esq.—64 a. at $92.50 per a. Mr. Coulter has bought the small farm of Mr. Way, in West Bradford—13 a. at $2800. *Bucks Co.*—D. R. Johnson, his farm, 71½ a., in Richland, to a Mr. Wonderly, of Phila., for $85 per a. J. Radcliff, his farm in Buckingham, about 49 a., to M. Scarborough, for $5,200.

KENTUCKY.

Madison Co.—The land of J. Bogg, dec'd, in 3 parcels. The home piece, 143 a., by E. C. Boggs, at $81.50 per a. The Baker place, 29 a., by J. Richardson, at $118.50 per a. The remaining fifty-two a. adjoining, were sold to G. W. Maupin, at $81 per a. This land is situated about a mile and a half from Richmond. *Scott Co.*—The farm of S. Thomason, Esq., sold publicly at $49.10 per a. H. S. Glenn, the purchaser. The farm contains 163 a., and is situated about 6 miles north of Georgetown. Dr. B. F. Elliott sold 68 a. on Eagle to Mr. W. Spates for $1,900—about $28 per a.—Dr. J. S. Offutt has sold his farm near Newtown, 220 a.—one tract of about 80 a. at $65 per a., and the remaining 140 a. at $70 per a. *Shelby Co.*—The Shelby Co. Ag. and Mechanical Association have purchased from Mrs. A. Blanton, at $100 per a., land for Fair Grounds. Mr. W. M. Wells has purchased the farm belonging to the estate of J. Ford, dec'd, at $50 per a. Mr. W. Daniel has sold his "upper farm," some 260 a., to Col Whitesides, of Clarke Co., at $70 per a.

NORTH CAROLINA.

Edgecombe Co.—W. S. Battle, Esq., of Rocky Mount, has purchased from K. P. Battle, Esq., of Raleigh, his Flag Marsh plantation, between 1100 and 1200 a., together with fifty slaves, for $65,000.

ARKANSAS AND LOUISIANA.

Gen. S. Mitchell, of Arkansas Co., Ark., has

sold his plantation on Silver Lake, 2500 a., for $100,000. This shows the value of Arkansas bottom lands. The N. O. Picayune states that Mr. L. Milandon has sold his sugar plantation on the right of the river, a little above Jefferson city, for one million dollars. It contains several thousand acres of land, and is worked by four hundred and forty-eight hands.

From the Planter and Mechanic.

STRAWBERRIES.

It is conceded by every one who believes, and especially by those who have paid most attention to the good things of this life, that there is not in the whole epicurean creed a more exquisite luxury than

"A dish of ripe Strawberries
Smothered in cream."

And what is more interesting to us in this utilitarian age is the fact that there is none more wholesome or more cheaply procured. Having ourselves enjoyed an uninterrupted succession of this delicious fruit during several seasons past, from the first of April till the middle of July, without even ordinary attention to the cultivation of our "patch," we are disposed to tell our readers how they may "go and do likewise," or even better than this if they will follow our *preaching* instead of our *practice*. Here is the plan, then, dear reader, and the sooner you begin to carry it out the better, for let us tell you that next to September, this month is the best of the whole twelve in which to set out strawberry plants when it is desired to gather anything like a crop of well-grown fruit the ensuing spring and summer.

The *soil* best suited to the wants of the strawberry is a tolerably light, rich sandy loam, but any good garden soil enriched by having a couple of inches of vegetable mould from the woods, with about one-fourth part ashes, thoroughly intermixed therewith to the depth of eighteen inches or two feet, will answer admirably.

The *aspect* which it prefers is a Northern or a North-western one. If this cannot be had the border on the north side of the garden fence will be an excellent place for the bed. This exposure will cause the fruit to be a few days later, but will greatly prolong its season. Where it is desired to have the fruit as early as possible a small bed should be planted with a Southern or South-eastern aspect. Our own experiments have been made in the open level ground, fully exposed to the sun at all hours of the day,—and where the ground is properly prepared no great fault can be found with such a situation. Far more depends on the *proper preparation of the soil*, and the *selection of varieties* than upon the aspect.

After the ground is covered with a good dressing of *vegetable* manure and deeply and finely spaded to mix the manure thoroughly with the soil, the top of the bed should be levelled and well pulverized by raking, after which the plant should be set out two feet apart each way. Where space is limited, two feet by one will answer very well, but we prefer a greater distance, even two by three feet if practicable. In setting the plants, which should be done in the evening or during cloudy weather, great care should be used to have the roots evenly spread out and covered with fine earth, so that the crown of the plant shall be just above the surface of the ground. If the weather is very dry, and promises to continue so, a few of the largest leaves should be removed from the plants, and a large leaf of any kind laid over them for a few days, to protect them from the direct rays of the sun. They should also receive a good watering when first set out, and occasionally afterwards if the weather continues dry. All runners should be removed at least once a week during the growing season, unless it is wished to increase the number of plants. After the first season the plants will not be so much disposed to form runners, and then very little time and attention will be required to keep them down. When straw, leaves, spent tan, or saw dust is easily obtainable, a mulching of a couple of inches of either of these, applied all over the bed, in February will greatly prolong the bearing season, and, at the same time, render the subsequent cultivation much easier. The fruit will also be much cleaner when gathered, and less liable to premature decay from excess to wet weather. The chief advantage of the moulding, however, is to retain the natural moisture of the soil, to keep the surface cool, and to prevent it from baking after rains and artificial waterings,—which latter should be applied thoroughly, at least once a week in dry weather, during the whole of the fruiting season.

With the above cultivation and the following varieties, no one who has two or three rods of ground to devote to the "patch" need be without a plentiful supply of strawberries for a large family, during three or four months of the year.—When more at leisure and more space at our disposal, we will explain the peculiar sexuality of the strawberry plant.

BREEDS AND RACES.

Ayrshire Cattle. The leading breeds of cattle, at the present day, are the Durham, Herefords, Ayrshires, Devonshires, Jerseys and Galloways. Of these cattle we consider the three first named as breeds, by which we mean that they have been manufactured by the skill of man by breeding for a series of years from various kinds of cattle, until certain points and characteristics have become established in them, and are with care kept up with comparative ease. The three last, Devons, Jerseys, and Galloways, we consider races made, not by man, but established by nature. We are aware that there may be exceptions taken to this position, but we think we are right. The three first named breeds, if not bred with care and skill, will degenerate fast.—They are constantly tending back to their original state, "crying back" as the breeders say, while the three last, if not bred with care and skill, will nevertheless retain their peculiar characteristics. They may vary in some points and become diminished in size through neglect, but they will still keep up their distinctive characteristics, and unless you mix foreign blood with them, they will continue to be what they were in the start—Devons will be Devons, Jerseys continue Jerseys, and Galloways Galloways. We are aware that some writers say that the Galloways, seventy years ago had horns. We doubt it, but, if they had, it would not materially change the result. The main features of Galloways do not depend upon the having or not having horns, but upon their peculiar shape, general form, and the stamina of the animal, which adapt it to peculiar localities and habits of life.

The Ayrshire breed of cattle are found in the

county of Ayrshire, in Scotland, and have been produced by breeders in that country, by crosses with different varieties of cattle, with a view of obtaining a hardy cow of medium size, that should possess great milking properties.

Without going into details, in regard to their origin, we would say, that, as milkers, giving a large flow of milk, of rather rich quality, they undoubtedly exceed many others. Flint, in his recent work on milch cows, makes the following remarks in regard to them :—

"Youatt estimates the daily yield of an Ayrshire cow for the first two or three months after calving, at five gallons a day, on an average ; for the next three months, at three gallons ; and for the next four months, at one gallon and a half. This would be 850 gallons as the annual average of a cow ; but, allowing for some unproductive cows, he estimates the average of a dairy at 600 gallons per annum for each cow. Three gallons and a half of the Ayrshire cow's milk will yield one and a half pounds of butter. He therefore reckons 257 pounds of butter, or 514 pounds of cheese, at the rate of 24 pounds to 28 gallon of milk, as the yield of every cow, at a fair and perhaps rather low average, in an Ayrshire dairy, during the year. Aiton sets the yield much higher, saying that 'thousands of the best Ayrshire dairy cows, when in prime condition and well fed, produce 1000 gallons of milk per annum ; that in general three and three-quarters to four gallons of their milk will yield a pound and a half of butter ; and that 27½ gallons of their milk will make 21 pounds of full milk cheese.' Mr. Rankin puts it lower—at about 650 to 700 gallons to each cow ; on his own farm of inferior soil, his dairy produced an average of 550 gallons only.

"One of the four cows originally imported into this country by John P. Cushing, Esq., of Massachusetts, gave in one year 3864 quarts, beer measure, or about 464 gallons, at ten pounds to the gallon, being an average of over ten and a half beer quarts a day for the whole year. It is asserted, on good authority, that the first Ayrshire cow imported by the Massachusetts Society for the promotion of Agriculture, in 1837, yielded sixteen pounds of butter a week, for several weeks in succession, on grass feed only These yields are not so large as those stated by Aiton ; but it should, perhaps, be recollected that our climate is less favourable to the production of milk than that of England and Scotland, and that no cow imported after arriving at maturity could be expected to yield as much, under the same circumstances, as one bred on the spot where the trial is made, and perfectly acclimated.

"According to Mr. Harley, the most approved shape and marks of a good dairy cow are as follows : Head small, long, and narrow towards the muzzle ; horns small, clear, bent, and placed at considerable distance from each other ; eyes not large, but brisk and lively ; neck slender and long, tapering towards the head, with a little loose skin below ; shoulders and fore quarters light and thin ; hind quarters large and broad ; back straight, and joints slack and open ; carcass deep in the rib ; tail small and long, reaching to the heels ; legs small and short, with firm joints ; udder square, but a little oblong, stretching forward, thin-skinned and capacious, but not low hung ; teats or paps small, pointing outwards, and at a considerable distance from each other ; milk-veins spacious and prominent ; skin loose, thin, and soft like a glove ; hair short, soft and wooly ; general figure, when in flesh, handsome and well proportioned."—*Maine Farmer.*

GOOD PIGS PAY BETTER THAN OLDER HOGS.

Messrs. Editors :—On the fifth of the present month I killed seven June pigs, which were six months and twenty days old. The lightest weighed 186 pounds, the heaviest 213 pounds. I sold three for thirty-five dollars and forty-five cents. The value of the whole is seventy-nine dollars and fifty-five cents. I fed the sow well until I weaned the pigs ; I then fed them all the corn they would eat, which has been the principal feed. They have consumed but little more feed than old hogs, that only reach 250 pounds, do while fattening, say nothing of the trouble and expense of wintering and summering the shoats. Does not that argue strongly in favor of fattening spring pigs?

I sowed two small papers of the Hungarian grass seed, and have saved three quarts of seed.—I fed the straw to the oxen this winter, together with good marsh hay. The straw was preferred to the hay. How foul the ground is left the summer will tell. E. D. Messenger.

Dellona, Sauk Co.

Note.—Mr. M.'s experience in pork making agrees exactly with our own views on the subject. See suggestions for February. We wish he had stated his breed.—*Wisconsin Farmer.*

A WORD FOR THE BIRDS.

The readers of the *Country Gentleman* do not, I trust, need to be told that the birds are among the farmer's best friends ; but the full value of their labours may not be realized by all.

Wilson, the ornithologist, computes that each red winged blackbird destroys on an average fifty grubs a day during the summer. A few figures will show you how many this would amount to in the course of the season. The robin, the wood thrush, the blue bird, the cat bird, the sparrow, the oriole, the woodpecker, and many other birds are equally useful. The folly of killing them is equalled only by its wickedness.

While hoeing in my garden the other day, I observed a small bird alight near a row of cabbages. He commenced at one end of the row, and making the entire circuit of every plant and examining carefully the under surface of every leaf, went through to the other end. His search was not unsuccessful, for he found and devoured worms or other insects from almost every plant. Now, no gold could buy the service, which the scores of these winged assistants that labour so diligently for me, perform so effectually without money and without price ; giving me sweet songs without number in addition. Reader, encourage the birds! D. H. J., *Mamoroneck, N. Y. Country Gentleman.*

The "Scribner Spitzenberg."—The Journal of the N. Y. State Agr. Society for February, 1859, says that the Committee of that Society on Fruit, report favourably upon this Apple, and recommend it.—"Its general appearance shows it to be a seedling of the Esopus Spitzenburgh, crossed, perhaps with the Autumn Strawberry, which it resembles in shape. Its colour is a deep, lively blush." It was exhibited by J. W. Bailey of Plattsburgh.

OUR JANUARY NO. AND THE POST OFFICE.

Having occasion toward the close of the month of February to make special inquiry at the Baltimore Post Office for a package of books forwarded to Washington, and which were entirely lost, some two hundred Numbers, perhaps, of the *Farmer* for January came to light, which had been lying in that office for about *eight weeks*, directed mostly to subscribers in Virginia. These papers, after being properly wrapped, but before they were tied, had been, by mistake of the carrier, taken to the office without our knowledge until after the proper time of their distribution, and when it was too late to remedy it. The wrappers being broken, as we suppose, they were not distributed at all from the Baltimore Office, but allowed to lie there, without notice to us, until accident brought them to light. In the mean time, having heard from numerous subscribers of their failure and forwarded substitutes, we have awaited to hear from others who are still deficient, and shall be glad as far as possible to remedy the matter.

Our subscribers may rest assured that their papers are mailed regularly within two or three days, at most, of the first of the month. We suppose that the delay in receiving it, which we have frequent complaints of, is owing to the fact, that being a heavy mail, and a monthly, its distribution is made to give place to others, as it may suit the views, or the convenience of the Post Office. We shall in some measure remedy the matter, we hope, by an earlier issue.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.

Berry, N. E.—Salt for Agriculturists.

Burns & Sloan—Lumber, &c.

Cornell & Dorsey—Coe & Co's Superphosphate of Lime.

Easter, Hamilton & Co.—Dry Goods.

Emlen & Passmore—six sorts of Mowing and Reaping Machines.

Glenn, John—Imported Alderneys.

Gregory, J. J. K.—Seed of Hubbard Squash.

Greenough, E. A.—McCormick's Reaper and Mower.

Hammond, J. D.—Saddle, Harness and Trunk Maker.

Hopkins, Wm. C.—Grocer and Commission Merchant.

Marriott, Jonathan—Horses and Mules.

Morgan, Wm. R.—Lime and Feed.

Payne, W. S.—General Commission Merchant.

Peyton, Jno. B.—General Commission Business.

Pitt, Thos.—Inspection and Analyses of Guano.

Royston Bros.—Dry Goods, Carpeting, &c.

Reese, Chas.—Warner's Anti-Freezing Pumps.

Richardson, Wm.—Wilson's Albany Seedling.

Sands, Samuel—Agency, Sands' Manipulated Guano.

Stimpson & Neilson—Oil of Vitriol to dissolve bones.

Stran, W. H. & Co.—Patent Portable Bake Oven.

Smith, jr. Jos.—Young Herod Stallion.

Warns, C.—Chester Hogs, &c.

Watkins, John T.—Cabinet Furniture.

Wheeler, Melick & Co.—Threshers and Agricultural Implements.

Wirt, Dr. Wm.—Land on the Potomac, in Va.

Whiting, James & Co.—Foreign and Domestic Hardware.

Williams, J. J.—"*The Planter and Mechanic*," Mississippi

Whitman, E. & Co.—Seed of the "Hubbard Squash."

Whitman, E. & Co.—Patent Seed Sower.

BALTIMORE MARKETS, March 23d.

There is at present no material change to note in prices from our last quotations. Flour shows still some advance, and wheat an average of about five cents higher; this, however, is a falling off from last week's rates, when prime lots of white went as high as $1.95. The growing crop is unusually advanced for the season, and promises well on all well drained lands. On flat lands it is much damaged, if not entirely destroyed. Corn is gradually rising in price, and will, we do not doubt, continue to advance. The country is just now fully realizing—what all careful readers of the *American Farmer* were so well apprised of last Fall—the very large deficiency in the crops of both wheat and corn.

Wheat.—We quote reds at $1.45 to $1.60 or ordinary to prime; white $1.50 to $1.65 for ordinary to good, and $1.75 to $1.85 for prime.

Corn.—White corn 74 to 78; yellow 84 to 86.

Oats.—We quote Maryland and Virginia 48 to 52; Pennsylvania 52 to 55 cts.

Rye.—Maryland 82 to 85; Pennsylvania 95 to $1.

Flour.—Howard St. Superfine $6.25; Ohio do. $6.25; Howard St. Extra $7.00; Ohio Extra $6.75; Baltimore ground Family Flour $9.00; Extra $8.

Tobacco.—Tobacco is coming in finely, but prices do not seem to be settled. They indicate a falling off of 50 cts. to $1.00 from the Fall sales. We quote Inferior at $3.50 to $6.50; Superior $7.00 to $11.00. *Bay Tobacco*, Tips $4.50 to $5.50; Seconds $5.50 to $7; Spangled $7 to $12; fine Yellow $12 to $16. *Ohio Tobacco*, common Green $5.50; common Spangled $6.50; common to middling Red Spangled $8 to $10; good to fine Yellow $11 to $15.00; *Kentucky* $6.00 to $6.25 for Lugs; 7.50 to $8.50 for medium leaf, and $9.00 to $12.00 for wrappers.

Cotton.—We quote cotton at 11¾ to 13¾.

Seeds.—Prime Clover Seed, retail, $6.50; Timothy $2.25; Orchard Grass $1.50; Herds Grass $1.25; Field Peas $1.50; Flaxseed $1.50.

Wool.—Unwashed, 26 to 27 cts., tub washed 31 to 35; No. 1 pulled, 29 to 33; Merino pulled, 33 to 36; quarter to half blood, 37 to 39; half to three-quarters 39 to 46; three-quarter to full blood, 46 to 50; Extra, 53 to 55, (all washed.)

Cattle, Sheep and Hogs.—We quote Beeves at $4 to $5.25, averaging $4.87½ on the hoof. Hogs, $8.50 to $9 25, nett, per hundred pounds. Sheep $4.75 to $6 per hundred.

Guano.—Peruvian Guano is selling at $62.50, delivered on vessels.

Best Brown Mexican (AA) we quote at $34.00 in bbls; White Mexican (A), ground $30.00. The lower grades of Mexican from $15 to $20. Ichaboe or California Guano $48 per ton of 2.000 lbs.—Manipulated Guano $47. Superphosphates $40 to $45 per ton of 2.000 lbs